

PHOBIA

Story by
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Screenplay by
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&
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(10:00 pm)

A framed painting is fixed on a white wall. It is a colorful painting of a young woman stretching her right hand out towards the fire crackers bursting in the distance. The fire crackers look like stars.

The author's name is Mehak. The painting has a name tag - it's named - 'NAZARA'. As we **ZOOM OUT**, we see the reflection of people on the glass frame. It looks like the woman in the painting is surrounded by people now. *

ZOOM OUT further to reveal a large group of people fill a studio, an art exhibit is in the process. Different styles of art is on display. Soft Jazz music plays in the background.

The crowd clears a little to reveal a woman, dressed in a sexy bohemian dress. Back facing us. She has a small black tattoo on the back of her neck of an eagle in flight. A small group of people have gathered around her, Her body language suggests she is holding court.

MEHAK

...Paanch... saat... dus minute!
Ghoore ja raha tha mujhko. Main
ignore kar rahi thi, but then maine
socha kya hai yeh? To main uthi aur
uske table tak gayi. Darna to
chodo, ab wo smile kar raha tha!

A SWIPE of people and we are closer to this woman, we move in front of her to reveal her big dreamy eyes, dusky complexion and mischievous grin. She is MEHAK, our 30 year old protagonist. She is nursing a glass of wine. Next to her stands SHAAN, a young man, in his early thirties, Wheatish complexion, salt and pepper look.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Old guy, hanh, like, at least 60
years old he was. Bola Hello,
Princess! Maine kaha dekhiye
Uncleji, please stop staring! Aap
ko sharm aani chahiye! But he said
meri shakl hoobahoo kisise se milti
hai...

*

*

Mehak takes sip of her drink.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

To of course mujhe poochna pada ki
kiss-se milti hai? But Uncleji
mujhe dekhe ja rahe the...

SHAAN

Tharki buda!

A few chuckles break out. Mehak looks at Shaan sternly. Shaan smiles back at her, wine glass in hand.

MEHAK

Aisa kuch nahin tha! He was really emotional, haath waath kaanp rahe the bechaare ke.

SHAAN

Since when did you get so sentimental?

Mehak stares at Shaan. He zips his mouth.

MEHAK

Anyway, so maine phir se poocha kiski shakl mujhse hoobahoo blah blah, right? Kaun thi wo?

DUMB MALE MODEL

Unki Ma?

Mehak shakes her head in the negative.

MAN 1

Uski Beti?

A few people chuckle, Mehak narrows her eyes in mock disapproval - No, wrong answer.

Shaan puts his hand up.

SHAAN

Uski Class 8 ki Biology teacher?

MEHAK

Apni fantasy mat ghusao beech mein! Anyone else?

People shrug, no more answers. Mehak volunteers the answer.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Meri shakl hoobahoo uski kutiya se milti hai - Princess.

People laugh.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Has kyun rahe ho? It's true. I was speechless.

(MORE)

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Uncle ne bataya ki Princess ki maut
ek accident ke dauran hui... 1985
mein. Funny, I was born in 1985.

By now everyone is captivated by her story, including Shaan.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Uncle ne kaha ki ek din wo raaste
par chali gayi, aur ek fast gaadi
pata nahin kahan se aayi, aur usse
uda diya. Jab tak Uncle bhaag ke
Princess ke paas pahunche.... wo
mar chuki thi. Gala kat gaya tha
uska. Satrah June, 1985 ke din,
subah ke aanth baje.

SHAAN

Satrah June ko to..?

MEHAK

Exactly.

(To the audience)

Satrah June, 1985. Subah aanth
baje, main paida hui thi.

People ooh and wow, in disbelief. Shaan is skeptical.

SHAAN

No way!

MEHAK

It gets even stranger... Koi yakeen
nahin karega...

Silence in the group.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Mujhe yahan, (indicates the back
half of her neck languidly)
birthmark hai.

She grabs Shaan's hand and places it on her neck. Everyone
closes in to see the scar. Shaan's skepticism takes a dip for
a moment as Mehak makes him touch her neck.

2 SHOT of Shaan and Mehak. Shaan leans in towards Mehak.
Mehak **BARKS** loudly into Shaan's face, startling him.

MLS - Shaan lets out a scream and spills his drink on his
pants. The group explodes into nervous laughter, Mehak howls
as she downs her drink. The group laughs at Shaan, he
sheepishly looks away. Shaan scurries away.

DUMB MALE MODEL

(to friend)

Toh Mehek... Last janam mein doggie
thi?

*

The group breaks out into peals of laughter at her response. Mehak turns to look for Shaan, the front door opens as people leave and enter, when her attention falls on a line of parked cars in the compound outside the studio.

Mehak's pov - Through the crowd, we see a cab. A person swipes the foreground.

Mehak's pov - We are much closer... We **ZOOM IN** further to reveal she is actually looking at a driver sitting in a car, she can't see his face, he sits in darkness. He seems to be looking in her direction.

MS of Mehak, **SLOW TRACK IN & ZOOM IN** - A faint frown emerges on Mehak's face. A sense of dread envelops her as we close in on her as the door shuts on her face.

2

INT./EXT. CAR ON ROAD - MIDNIGHT (SONG)

2

(Two songs playing in the car, first Gandhi Baat from R...rajkumar and second - madamiya from Tevar)

(The insides of the cab is lit up by UV lights.)

Mehak's pov - We see the city lights go by through the backseat of a taxi.

Car rig shot - From Mehak's back seat window. Mehak (f/g) and Shaan (b/g) sit in the back of a taxi. Mehak is lost in thought. In the background, an item number plays on the car radio. Shaan is pouring dark rum from a quarter bottle into a half filled soda bottle. Mehek, lost in thought, simply reaches out and stops him from pouring. Even as he asks what, the car goes over a bump. He finishes and offers her the ready mix.

SHAAN

Ghatak jao, you'll feel better...

She takes a sip.

MEHEK

Bas. Venue pe bhi piya...

Shaan looks at her with concern.

SHAAN

Achanak hua kya? Thodi der theherna
chahiye tha, aadhe art critics to
pahunche bhi nahin the...?

Car rig shot - Outside the drivers seat. Mehak seen through
the gap from behind the driver's seat. She knows Shaan is
right, but...

MEHAK

I just needed to get out.

SHAAN

Itna kya tension le rahi ho?
Tumhare paintings sabko pasand
aaye, nothing to worry.

Shaan pats her on her shoulder, the hand stays there a little
longer than necessary.

MEHEK

I can't describe mujhe kya hone
laga, just a very bad feeling...
Jaise bahut bura kuch hone wala
hai...

Car rig shot - From Shaan's back seat window.

SHAAN

Ab theek ho na? To batao, kahan se
mili wo Princess wali kahani?

MEHAK

You don't believe me?

Car rig shot - 2 SHOT From outside backseat glass - Mehak
moves closer, lifts her hair and shows Shaan the birthmark on
the back of her neck. Shaan can smell her perfume. For a
second there he is completely intoxicated.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Don't even think about it.

SHAAN

Then don't make me!

She gives him a funny smile... Shaan snaps out of it.

SHAAN (CONT'D)

Arre bhai volume kam kar.

The driver leans forward and does as he is told. We see his
eyes in the rearview mirror looking at them.

DR. NISHA KHANNA (V.O.)
 Relax. Tum apne hi drawing room
 mein ho. Hum sab hain yahan. Do you
 understand Mehek? Darne ki koi baat
 nahi hai.

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 *

8 **INT. ANUSHA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - MORNING** 8

(10:00 am)

Mehak has a Visual Sim headgear over her head and she is
 holding a tiny gaming remote. She sits on sofa.

Dr. Nisha Khanna is operating it through her laptop. Shaan
 and Joey watch from a distance.

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MEHAK

Bahar nikalo mujhe. Bahut bada hai.
 This place is so big. Bahot.

*
 *
 *

DR. NISHA KHANNA

Just relax. Breathe. Sirf dekho.
 Aas paas dekho.

*
 *
 *

7A **INT. SUPERMARKET - MORNING** 7A

Mehak fearfully examines the supermarket.

DR. NISHA KHANNA (O.S.)

Enjoy the colors. Tumhe shopping
 pasand hai na? Anusha ne bataya ki
 grocery shopping tum hi karti ho?

*
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 *

8A **INT. ANUSHA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - MORNING** 8A

Mehak in her headgear nods.

MEHEK

Haan. Online!

Dr. Nisha Khanna smiles, satisfied with herself. Shaan leans
 in, to have a look.

On her laptop is the same visual of Supermarket that Mehak is
 looking around in - but with options and parameters that she
 can control. There are also Mehak's cardiograph, brain
 activity, etc., that's being mapped. Dr. Nisha Khanna can see
 the spike in her heart rate and brain activity. Mehak's heart
 is beating faster than normal.

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DR. NISHA KHANNA *
Aaj virtual shopping karo! Come on *
Mehak, do kadam aage chalo... *

Mehak takes a step. *

DR. KHANNA *
Very good. Kaisa lag raha hai? *

MEHAK *
Nahin.... Shayad. *

DR. NISHA KHANNA *
Shayad kya? *

MEHAK *
(focusing on the doctor's voice) *
Shayad nahin. *

Mehak is feeling suffocated and having trouble breathing, she *
tries to pull off her headgear... *

DR. NISHA KHANNA *
Don't touch the headgear please. Do *
minute bhi nahin hue Mehek... *
chalti raho, don't stop. *

Mehak stops fiddling with the headgear. Just then, ANUSHA *
steps out of the Kitchen with a couple of cups of coffee. *
Shaan takes the cups from her tray, places one next to Dr. *
Nisha Khanna, holds the other in his hand. Anusha remains *
standing near the sofa, watches the proceedings. In the *
background, we can see Joey watching as well. *

DR. KHANNA *
Aage badho Mehak, pick up *
something. Kya lena hai? *

MEHAK *
Kuch nahi. Band karo isey. *

JOEY *
Chocolates le lo Maasi! *

Anusha gestures to Joey to keep quiet. *

DR. NISHA KHANNA *
Joey ko chocolate chahiye. Ek pick *
up karo na, Mehak...? *

JOEY *
Biscuit wali chocolate. *

ANUSHA

Ssshhh Joey!

Mehak doesn't move. The Dr. Nisha Khanna gestures Anusha to talk to her.

ANUSHA (CONT'D)

Main yahin hoon, Mehek... Tumhe kuch nahin hoga... Chalo, chocolate lo...

MEHAK

Promise?

ANUSHA

Mother promise.

Mehak smiles and moves the joystick ahead.

7B

INT. SUPERMARKET - MORNING

7B

Mehak slowly starts walking down an aisle - colorful products adorn the shelves. Looking around, the mall is bright and cheerful.

DR. NISHA KHANNA (O.S.)

Very good Mehak. Keep moving.

Mehak's pov - She walking through the empty aisle. Looking at all the different colored food products.

As she turns the corner, she sees the adjacent aisle is filled with people holding trolleys, shopping.

MEHAK (O.S.)

Anusha! Anusha! Yahan par log hain!!! Please please nikalo mujhe...

An elderly woman walks by; she accidentally brushes Mehak's virtual hand and apologizes.

ELDERLY LADY

I'm sorry.

Mehak panics, backs away into the empty aisle, away from the smiling old lady and the crowd. The heart icon on the top left of the screen starts beating fast.

MEHAK

Sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry...

8C INT. ANUSHA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - MORNING 8C *

Mehak anxiously tries to remove the head gear, she is panicking. *

Joey looks up from his toys, watches on curious and a little frightened. *

On the laptop - the video is going all haywire - the elderly lady is smiling but Mehak is flipping out, her cardiograph meter is spiking. *

MEHAK *

Sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry... *

Shaan is about to get up and help her. Dr. Nisha Khanna signals him to not give in. *

7D INT. SUPERMARKET - MORNING 7D *

Mehak's vision is moving all over as she tries to remove the helmet, moving back, up and down in fast motions, creating a very nauseating experience for us. *

DR. NISHA KHANNA (O.S.) *

It's okay, Mehak, wo apne apne
raste chale jaayenge, koi tumhe
kuch nahin karega... *

8D INT. ANUSHA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - MORNING 8D *

MEHAK *

NOOOOOOOOOO! Meri... mera... attack
karenge... Maar daalega mujhe! Get
me out! Get me out! *

Mehak breaks down, she falls to the ground, crying hysterically. *

Her screams frighten Anusha's son Joey, who starts to cry. Anusha takes the child in her arms and calms him down. *

The Doctor runs to her and pulls out the head gear and tries to help her up, she screams. *

MEHAK (CONT'D) *

Don't bloody touch me! *

Doctor steps away. *

DR. NISHA KHANNA

That's all right Mehak. Apne aap
utho...

Mehak goes in to her room, and bangs the door shut. Shaan
looks at Anusha, concerned. Track in on Anusha's face.

ANUSHA

Doctor yeh kya hai? Video games se
aap theek karenge Mehak ko?

Dr. Nisha Khanna is checking to see if the headgear is
damaged. She packs up the wires.

DR. KHANNA

Yeh video game nahi hai. Virtual
Therapy hai. Naya naya introduce
hua hai... PTSD patients ke liye.

We cut to Mehek. She is standing at the door, listening.

DR. KHANNA (OS) (CONT'D)

Us raat ke haadse ki wajah se Mehek
ko ghar se bahar nikalne ka Phobia
ho gaya hai... Phobia aur Darr mein
fark hai. Darr, ek rational
reaction hai... magar Phobia...
illogical hai, betuka hai,
treatment karni padti hai uski....
Mehek ko hundred percent yakeen hai
ki agar wo bahar gayi, to phirse
wahi hoga jo uss raat ko hua...

ANUSHA

Lekin usse achi tarah maloom hai ki
wo taxi driver jail mein hai... Wo
ab usse kuch nahin kar sakta. To
itna kya darr rahi hai wo? It's not
even as if she was... raped!

(She pauses)

Sorry. Oh God, I'm sorry...

DR. NISHA KHANNA

Main jaanti hoon patient ko jitni
takleef hai usse kai zyada famiy pe
beet-ti hai. Himmat rakho. Chaho to
kuch din admit kar lo usse? Ek
bahut acha rehab clinic hai Byculla
mein...

In her room, Mehek reacts. She leaves.

SHAAN

Ek second please doctor, Mehek ko
kisi institution mein daalne ki
zaroorat nahin. Please, she is not
crazy!

ANUSHA

Shaan! You have no idea kitna
difficult hai! Uske saath do din
reh ke dekho, tumhaari galat fehmi
once and for all door ho jaayegi!
Oh God I'm sorry!

9

INT. ANUSHA'S HOUSE, TOILET - MORNING

9

(11:00 am) Anusha pulls a tiny brown glass bottle from
Mehak's hand bag, she removes the cap and uses an eyedropper
to drop medicinal liquid into a glass of water. The liquid
dissolves in the water. She hands it to Mehak who is quietly
crying. The tears are falling from an otherwise
expressionless face.

Anusha sits next to her, holding her shoulder.

ANUSHA

Main 6 saal ki theen aur tum do-
dhai saal ki. Hamare Jammu waale
bungalow mein wo first floor
terrace tha, yaad hai? Main tumhe
utha ke chakkar ghuma rahi theen...
aur tum phisal gayi mere haathon
se. Aur giri bhi to kahan? Seedhe
ground floor pe.

Mehak absently touches a scar under her chin....

ANUSHA (CONT'D)

Correct! Teen stitch. Mummy ne ghar
pe hi kiye... Tum to ro hi rahi
theen, par tumse zyada main ro rahi
thi. Phir jab papa aaye, to hume
hasane ke liye kya kiya yaad hai?

Papa ka gaana yaad hai, yahan
dekho. Lakdi ki...?

ANUSHA (CONT'D)

(Beat that suggests Kathi)

ANUSHA (CONT'D)

Kathi pe...?

Mehak can't focus. Anusha mimes a horse. Mehak inhales
deeply. *

ANUSHA (CONT'D) *

Ghode ki dum pe...? *

ANUSHA (CONT'D) *

Jo...? *

Mehak takes the glass and drinks it. *

ANUSHA (CONT'D) *

(In tune) Well done! Well done! *

Well done, ghoda dum utha ke, *

dauda! (Laughs) *

Mehak smiles, still lost in the memory... *

INT. ANUSHA'S HOUSE, MEHAK'S ROOM - DAY *

(11:00 am) *

ANUSHA *

Mehak... tumhe pata hai na... ki I *

love you? *

MEHAK *

I love you too. *

As if on cue, Shaan enters with a cup of coffee and gives it
to Mehak. *

SHAAN *

I love you three! *

Mehak smiles. She takes a sip of the coffee. Shaan and Anusha
share a look. Shaan leans forward. Mehak takes another sip. *

ANUSHA *

Last time ghar se bahar kab nikli *

thi pata hai? *

MEHAK *

(tries to act certain) *

Do hafte ho gaye. *

ANUSHA *

Do hafte nahin huey Mehak. Chaar... *

MEHAK *

Chaar hafte. *

ANUSHA

Chaar mahiney ho gaye.

MEHAK

What? Kya bak rahi ho Anusha!

She glances at Shaan, he nods his head in agreement. Mehak looks scared and confused at Shaan and at her sister.

ANUSHA

Tumhaare alawa bhi meri kuch responsibility hai... (a beat) Joey tumhe iss tarah dekhta hai to disturb ho jata hai, pata hai na?

MEHEK

To uss useless therapist ko kyun bulaya? It's her fault! Maine kuch nahin kiya!

ANUSHA

Hum log Joey ki baat kar rahe hein Mehek! Wo sirf aanth saal ka hai! Hume usse normalcy deni chahiye. Aur tum

Mehak's vision starts going hazy, she shakes her head.

MEHEK

You're blaming me, Anu? Joey ko normalcy chahiye to usse apne papa se milne do! If that kid gets screwed up, it won't be because of me!

Anusha refuses to get riled, she expected a tantrum.

ANUSHA

Mehak stop it. Tumhe kya lagta hai maine koshish nahin kee? Tum jaanti ho what I go through jab mera bachcha chaar chaar ghante ghar ke bahar khada rehta hai kyunki tum, is kamrey se darwaaze tak nahin jaa sakti! Meri mat socho, bachche ki to socho! Kahan se normalcy le kar aaon? Uss virtual supermarket se??

Mehak has no reply.

MEHAK

I am sorry.

ANUSHA

No Mehak, yahan reh kar tum theek
nahi ho sakti.

Mehak starts to throw a fit. She stands up, drops the coffee cup on a rug. Shaan quickly picks it up and places it on a side table.

MEHAK

Matlab? Tum kya chahti ho? Mujhe
pata hai, tum mujhe pagal khaane
bhej dena chahti ho! Don't you dare
deny it, maine sab suna!

*
*
*
*

She suddenly sits down on the bed, drowsy.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

(Sleepily) Tum kaun hoti ho mujhe
bhejnewali? Yeh ghar mera bhi hai!

ANUSHA

Aur hamesha rahega... magar tumhe
pehle theek hona hoga.

SHAAN

She's right Mehak.... Relax...

She starts losing consciousness, her vision starts fading away. She looks at the coffee spilt on the floor.

MEHAK

I'm relaxed. Relaxing... Mujhe sona
hai.

She gets up, so as to go to bed but falls. Shaan grabs her before she hits the floor. As she lies back in Shaan's arms... His words start to go hazy, as does Mehak's vision of the room, her sister...

SHAAN

Don't worry Mehak... Maine sab
arrange kar diya hai...

FADE TO BLACK

DAY 1.

11 INT. THE APARTMENT, SOFA IN LIVING ROOM - NOON

11

Out of focus shot, gradually starts to come in to focus. Mehak is asleep on a sofa. It's an unfamiliar apartment. The background in out of focus.

*

In the background, A door slowly opens, the sharp white light shoots in, a shadow of a tall man grows on the room floor.

Focus is still on Mehak.

MALHOTRA (O.S.)

Jiah?

Mehak doesn't respond. Shadow moves towards her. Approaching her slowly, we can't see Mehak, her back facing us. Hair covering her face.

MALHOTRA (O.S) (CONT'D)

Jiah?

Mehak slowly regains consciousness, she turns around and the first thing to come in to focus is - Malhotra, tall, 40's, stands before her. He looks unkept and troubled. And by the number of holy threads and rings he has on, he is a god fearing man.

MALHOTRA (CONT'D)

Oh!

Mehak stares catatonically. Awake but drugged. Malhotra backs away startled. In her panic Mehak rolls off the sofa and falls to the ground. Mr. Malhotra tries to help her.

MALHOTRA (CONT'D)

Miss! Aap theek hain..?

MEHAK

(Mumbling) SHAAN! ANU! Help! Shaan!
Anu! Help! help!help!help!

Mehak tries to crawl away from Malhotra.

Just then Shaan enters with the carton of bisleri bottles, surprised to see Mehak on the floor he drops the carton on the floor, startling Malhotra. *

SHAAN

Oi!

MALHOTRA

Maine kuch nahin kiya! Main to...

Shaan rushes into the room, pushes Malhotra aside and goes up to Mehak.

SHAAN

Get away from her...
(Talks to Mehek calmly
without touching her)
(MORE)

SHAAN (CONT'D)
 ok Mehek, main yahin hoon. Relax,
 Mehek, please... breathe.

MEHAK
 Help. Help. Help.

Shaan doesn't pick her up, instead stretches out his hand and patiently waits for her to take it. Mehak makes an effort to control her sobs.... She is lying on the ground, moaning... looking only at Shaan.

After a beat, she takes his outstretched hand... He guides her to the sofa.

MEHEK
 You look so young!

MALHOTRA
 Aap to dar gayin!

Shaan realises Malhotra is still there, has seen the whole goings on. He gets up.

SHAAN
 Aap hain kaun aur andar kaise aa
 gaye?

Malhotra stretches out his hand.

MALHOTRA
 Darwaza khulla tha. I'm Manu
 Malhotra. I'm your next door
 neighbor actually. 304.(They shake
 hands)
 (to Mehak)
 Aap sachmuch dar gayi, I'm so
 sorry.

Mehak can feel Malhotra's eyes boring holes through her. She doesn't look up at him.

MALHOTRA (CONT'D)
 Mujhe laga Jiah wapas aa gayi!

SHAAN
 Manu, if you don't mind...
 (indicates door)
 Hum log abhi abhi aaye hain, thoda
 settle ho jaayen?

Malhotra starts to back out of the apartment.

MALHOTRA

Sure. So sorry. Kuch madad chahiye to please don't hesitate. I am just a doorbell away.

He points to the neighboring door again. Shaan takes a few steps forward as if to show him out. Malhotra turns once again before heading out the door.

MALHOTRA (CONT'D)

(To Mehek) Aap ke liye chai bana doon?

SHAAN

No thanx.

MEHEK

Paani... paani do.

MALHOTRA

(to Mehak)

Main deta hoon paani...

SHAAN

I got this, man. Just please go.

Malhotra laughs at the dismissal. Turns at the door.

MALHOTRA

Chai nahi to Coffee? Anything?

SHAAN

Thanks Manu. Thanks a lot.

Malhotra starts laughing again. Shaan is a bit startled, he looks back at Mehak, who is rattled and still panicking.

MEHEK

Has raha hai mera ghar kahan gaya?

12

INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE - NOON

12

Shaan picks out two small Bisleri bottles from the carton and comes to Mehak, who still looks rattled. She takes one of the proffered bottles.

SHAAN

Chala gaya. Mehek... wo chala gaya, relax... Look at me...

MEHEK

Has raha tha. Pani diya. Ghar kahan gaya?

SHAAN

Thode dinon ke liye yehi tumhaara
ghar hai.

MEHAK (ANGRY)

Ek saal ho gaya. Theek nahi hui ek
saal ho gaya na?

SHAAN

Nahin. Ek saal nahin hua....
Mehek... Yeh mere dost ka ghar hai.
Khaali pada tha... jitne din
chahiye hum yahan reh sakte hain.

MEHAK

Hum?

SHAAN

Tum baba, tum!

She stares at him. He smiles sweetly.

13

INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 1&2 - NOON

13

We watch the proceedings from a distance, as Shaan shows
Mehak the house.

Shaan walks into the corridor. Mehak walks more cautiously as
she's in a new space, and sticks close to Shaan as he walks
in to the kitchen.

She waits outside, munching on a packet of chips.

SHAAN (O.S)

Masterchef, please aaiye? Nice and
spacious kitchen, huh?

MEHAK

(shrugs indifference)
Anda bhi boil nahin kar sakti.

He steps back out.

SHAAN

Don't worry. Main bahut accha
khaana banata hoon.

Shaan chuckles as he crosses frame and opens the adjacent
door. Mehak rolls her eyes, goes to guest room.

SHAAN (CONT'D)

Let's see what's in here...

They both stop in their shoes on seeing what's inside.

SHAAN (CONT'D)
Ugh, Isko band hi rakhte hain...

They walk towards the last room at the end of the corridor. Shaan opens the door and walks in, Mehak doesn't follow. She halts at the cabinet.

She looks inside, its filled with various artifacts and collectibles. One in particular catches Mehak's attention - a mechanical sparrow.

We hear the sound of Shaan pull open the curtains, light streams into the hallway. Mehak takes a few steps back into our view, away from the stream of light.

SHAAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
View is not bad, huh?

MEHAK
Band Karo!

SHAAN (O.S.)
Nahin. Vitamin D ki sakht zaroorat hai tumhe. Din raat andhere mein baithogi to vampire jaisi soorat ho jaayegi tumhaari.

MEHAK
Jaise bhi hogi tumse behtar hogi.

Shaan enters the frame laughing.

SHAAN
Maine kab mana kiya?

She runs her fingers along the cabinet, and a thick layer of dust is peeled off revealing the dark brown wood below.

She opens the cabinet, her hands tremble a bit from the sedatives.

MEHAK
Yeh sab kis ka hai?

SHAAN
Mujhe lagta hai us ladki ka hi hoga, kya naam bataya us 'Manu' ne, Jiah na? Jo nahi chahiye, phenk do.

She picks up the mechanical sparrow and turns her around in her hand as she studies it. A lot of detailing has gone into creating one of these. She rotates the key, nothing happens.

Shaan has meanwhile moved to the cabinet in the corridor to look inside..

MEHAK

Aur woh wapis aa gayi lene toh?

SHAAN (O.S.)

Doubt it. It seems raato raat nikal gayi yahan se. Gaayab!

MEHAK

Gaayab?

SHAAN

Rent diye bagair hi bhaag gayi,
deposit lene bhi nahin aayi
wapas...

The bird slips from Mehak's trembling fingers and falls on the floor. She bends down to pick it up when it starts to move, making an metallic clinking sound. Mehak looks at it amused.

Mehak stands up and places the bird back in the cabinet. She turns and almost collides into Shaan. He was standing a bit too close to her.

SHAAN (CONT'D)

Sorry.

Backs away.

SHAAN (CONT'D)

Chalo, thodi saaf safai kar
lenge...

MEHAK

Kar lenge nahin, kar loongi. Main.
Tumhe kaam pe nahin jaana?

SHAAN

Nahin aaj chutti le leta hoon...
I'll just help you settle in.

MEHAK

(Interrupts) No need. Main apne
busy schedule se thoda time nikaal
loongi!

CUT TO:

14

INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE/Common AREA - NOON

14

Shaan wears his shoes, Mehek stands a little away from the door.

MEHAK

Rent kitna hai?

SHAAN (O.S.)

Don't worry about it.

MEHAK (O.S.)

Shaan.

Mehak clearly doesn't want to be more indebted to people than she already is.

SHAAN

Tum jaldi se theek ho jao, phir apni paintings bech ke dher saara paisa kamana, phir mujhe wapas kar dena, theek hai?

MEHAK

Main jaanti hoon tumne aur Anusha ne mujhe drug kiya.

SHAAN

Arre yaar politely poochta to tum aati kya?

MEHAK

(bites her tongue)
Agar mere motor skills theek tarah se wapas nahin aaye to main tumhe kabhi maaf nahin karoongi. Haso mat! Jao ab!

SHAAN

Dawai mat bhoolna...

Shaan shuts the door. Mehek double locks it and looks out through peephole. We hear the sound of the lift door opening and closing.

Mehak locks all the locks on the front door. And puts the chain. She looks back at the house. As she stares at this place, we track back leaving her at the entrance door. She looks alone and vulnerable.

A swing jazz number starts playing as the track ends.

15 INT. THE APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - DAY 15

(01:00 pm - 03:00 pm)

(SONG - MONTAGE, One slow track shot) (REF- *LITTLE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE- mildred bailey*)

Mehak cleaning the living room. Dusting, wiping and sweeping. We see the living room for the first in its entirety. Basic furnishing. Sofa set, coffee table, wooden chairs, old vintage television set (late 90's) and TV cabinet.

16 INT. THE APARTMENT, KITCHEN - DAY (SONG) 16

The kitchen is set up with all basic requirements - a stove, some basic crockery and cutlery.

The Kitchen dinner table has blood red ketchup stains - she wipes it clean.

On a wooden shelf on the wall, lies a line of glass jars filled with rotten rice and pulses.

She opens the fridge (older model) that is against the wall adjacent to the door. A tomato ketchup bottle has spilt over, she is cleaning it.

Freezer is open, water is filled in the empty ice tray. Shuts the freezer. *

INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR- DAY(SONG) *

She is cleaning the curio cabinet. The bird mainly.

17 INT. THE APARTMENT, MASTER BEDROOM - DAY (SONG) 17

The Master bedroom has a queen size bed w/ side tables, built in cupboard, large dressing table w/ mirror.

She is changing the bed covers.

Her mobile rings, its her sister. Mehak cuts the call.

18 INT. THE APARTMENT, BATHROOM - DAY (SONG) 18

(03:00 pm)

We hear sounds of a plunger. A large bathroom with rusted yellow and green tiles. It has an open loft area on top.

Mehak finishes plunging the toilet. She is wearing yellow gloves and a scarf around her face. Mehak tries the flush, it works perfectly.

She uses the hand spray to clean the grime of the tiles and wash basin. She lifts the drain gates for all the dirt to wash away.

She sprays the mirror cabinet up and down, a ring drops from top of the cabinet and falls next the open drain. (*Song abruptly stops*)

(Sound of the water collecting in the drain keeps increasing till it turns into a woman's moan)

*

She quickly bends, when She stands, she washes the gloves and the ring. As the grime clears we see the true color of the ring - It's a beautiful ruby red ring.

Mehak removes her gloves and tries the ring on. Its fits perfectly!

She admires the ring on her finger. In the background we can see the open drain, when suddenly a strange guttural sound emits from the open the drain. She shifts focus on the drain, listening, it comes again, this time it sounds like an unclear moan. More she listens the more it sounds like a woman's moan.

She feels a little weird, tries to removes the ring, but it won't come off. Attention shifts back to the ring. She tries again, doesn't budge. She uses soap to lubricate it, still doesn't move.

MEHAK

Fuck.

She opens the mirror cabinet, looks around, finds an old nail filer. She uses the filer to slide the ring out. Applying soap first. She keeps at it till she groans in pain.

19

INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE/Common AREA - DAY

19

(04:00 pm)

A hand with a bandaged finger is placed on the door, Mehak leans forward to look through the peep hole.

Her pov - we look at the building common area for the first time, it lies empty. No one in sight.

Mehak watches patiently for a few moments. We watch her from behind looking through the peep hole. Next to her feet are three garbage bags.

She quietly unlocks her main door. She opens the door slowly, trying hard not make any sound.

19A INT. THE BUILDING, ENTRANCE/COMMON AREA - DAY 19A

The common area expands further. Vertigo shot. At the far end of the common area are garbage bins - blue and green. A makeshift notice, written with marker - 'PLEASE TRASH HERE ONLY'.

19B INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE/COMMON AREA - DAY 19B

Mehak stares at the daunting task ahead.

She tries to step out, but she can't, its as if there is an invisible wall in front of her. She can't even land one foot out of the door. She starts panicking and feels nauseous as she forces herself to step out.

She finally lands one foot out, but then the Sound of the Lift opening on her floor. NIKI - A young, bespectacled girl in her early teens, steps out, humming a song (ek ladki ko dekha...). She smiles at Mehak. Mehak steps back in and slams the door shut.

20 INT. THE APARTMENT, BATHROOM - DAY 20

(04:30 pm)

OTS of Mehak, reflection in mirror - Mehak rummages through her handbag and takes out her medicine bottle - she uses the dropper to pour the liquid in to her mouth directly. She feels better. Mehak steps out of the bathroom, through the doorway we can see her suitcase lying open on the bed.

21 INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM - DAY 21

Mehak opens the bedroom cupboard to place her clothes in; she notices a couple of dresses of the earlier tenant still hanging inside the cupboard. She removes them to make room for her clothes (Saree is amongst them) Places them on the bed, including a pretty bathrobe and a vanity kit. One of the dresses is an air hostess's uniform.

She looks at herself in the mirror with it. It a long black colored uniform. She finds a name tag in the shirt pocket, reads 'Jiah Khurana'.

She puts back the costume along with the rest of Jiah's clothes. She opens Jiah's vanity kit, and that is when she sees the diary - Jiah's diary. She picks it up and starts to skim through when...

She hears the doorbell ring. She freezes, listens - silence. Drops the diary on the bed.

22 INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 2 - DAY 22

(04:30 pm)

Mehak peeps out. Through the Corridor showcase she sees: THE MAIN DOOR IS AJAR. She picks up the first thing that she can use as a weapon and walks down the corridor but when she turns the corner the door is shut. Mehek stands absolutely still. Then she thinks what if some one is inside? She cautiously walks forward and looks at the empty living room... empty kitchen. She goes to the door. It is indeed locked. She looks out through the peephole. Empty foyer. As she is looking, she hears laughter. She turns. It seems to be coming from the guest bedroom. She clutches her weapon even tighter and moves towards the room.

23 INT. THE APARTMENT, GUEST ROOM - EVENING 23

(06:00pm, just before magic Hour)

Mehak enters the room, tries the light switch but it doesn't work. She fiddles with the bulb on a lamp and it comes on. The room is primarily a storage space, with not much space to move around in. And dusty as hell.

The cupboard shuts to reveal Mehak (profile shot), and she turns to leave...

She hears a faint sound - it is as if someone is laughing, but she can't be sure. It seems to be coming from the white cloth covering furniture - looks like a person huddled on the bed.

She lifts the cloth to see underneath - old furniture is stacked on top of a bed, and a standing mirror (cracked) reflects her face. The faint giggling sound continues.

She moves towards the wall and places her ear to the wall, she has found the source. Someone in the neighboring apartment is giggling. It sounds like a man.

She taps on the wall faintly, it makes a hollow sound. No wonder she can hear him. But now the laughing stops.

Suddenly there is faint tap on the wall from the other end.

Mehak quickly steps out of the room and shuts the door behind her. Lights go off.

24 INT. THE APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - DUSK 24
(MAGIC HOUR)

A curtain is pulled, Mehak peeps out. It is dusk outside, but bright enough to see - the sun sets behind the concrete jungle, the sky a mix of blue and pink. A plane flies overhead.

Mehak stands near the french windows and looks out. She takes a step forward and pulls aside the sliding window.

She peeps out. Diwali decorations are being put up by a couple of building staff (watchman and junior artistes).

She notices a middle aged woman with short curly hair, dressed in a dark green khaftan and large vintage glasses, muttering a prayer, with rosary in her hand. She stares at the building playground.

Mehak looks at the playground - its empty, not a soul inside. But the swing sways though there's no breeze. Who is she looking at? Mehak looks back at her - she is looking at Mehak.

Startled, Mehak shuts the window and draws the curtain (jump axis).

25 INT. THE APARTMENT, BATHROOM - NIGHT 25
(08:00 pm)

Bathrobe hangs in toilet, Mehak sits in the bathtub, and slowly starts to sink down in to it, till she disappears, and only steam rising is seen.

Top angle MCU - Mehak has her face under water, eyes closed, gradually bubbles stop coming from her nostrils, all is still.

She hears a strange sound, her eyes spring open and she gets up. The sound came from the loft above. Sounds like someone or something moved. She waits. The sound comes again.

Definitely something moving up in the loft. She wraps herself in (Jiah's) bathrobe and goes to inspect.

She hesitantly looks up, she can't see anything, she decides to get a closer look. Stands on top of the wash basin and looks in. The loft lies empty. Enough space for someone to crawl into. An old rusted geyser lies in a corner of the loft and some unused paint cans and brushes. Suddenly the geyser makes a rumbling sound, startling Mehak. She almost loses her balance, but holds on to the edge of the loft with dear life.

She slowly steps down. Breathes a sigh of relief. When the doorbell rings. She exits the bathroom.

*
*

26 INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE/Common Area/Corridor 1 - NIGHT 26

Just as Mehak, in a towel is about to reach the door, it opens by itself. Luckily the chain lock is in place, Mehak is startled.

*
*
*

MEHAK

Shaan?!

*
*

SHAAN

Hey Mehak! Relax It's me.

*
*

He squeezes his hand through, waving it to her. She sighs in relief.

*
*

MEHAK

Ok, wait, wait, wait...

*
*

Too late, he's opened the chain lock.

*

She runs back towards her room. Shaan pushes open the door. He steps in to see a fleeting glimpse of Mehak as she disappears down the corridor.

*
*
*

27 INT. THE APARTMENT, KITCHEN - NIGHT

27

Shaan leaves the Chinese food on the kitchen counter, looks around the place - it's been cleaned up nice.

*
*

28(+A) INT. THE APARTMENT, SOFA IN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

28(+A)

He walks back in to the living room, sits down on the sofa. He picks up the TV remote and plays the TV. It snows on tv, no cable. He switches it off. His eye falls on Mehak's laptop lying by the side.

*
*
*
*

He checks her laptop which is in screen saver mode (dongle attached). It comes to life, revealing the web site Mehak was on - the PAS test. She's 98% agoraphobic. *

He checks out other tabs that Mehak has opened up. He constantly peeks towards corridor to ensure Mehak doesn't catch him. *

Her facebook page is open, he looks at what she's been up to. The next tab is her gmail account - she has numerous job offers and work from clients - for her painting, graphic designs, posters etc. *

Mehak steps in to the living room, her hair still wet. She's in comfortable clothes. She sees Shaan snooping through her laptop. *

Shaan turns around to see her there, and is caught in the act, he quickly presses a button and a song starts. He increases the volume. (*REF - Alica Keys- girl on fire*) *

He starts dancing. Mehak looks on quizzical. He tries to convince her to dance with him. *

SHAAN *

I know you want to... *

She sits down. *

MEHAK *

No thanks. Main yahan baithkar
khaana khaati hoon. Tum mujhe
entertain karo. *

(beat) *

Naach chamiya, naach! *

Mehak moves towards the kitchen table, but Shaan cuts her path and encourages her to dance. *

Mehak increases the volume, and starts dancing as well. She can really dance, Shaan is mesmerized. She gets lost in the dancing, starts to have fun. *

29

INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE/Common AREA - NIGHT

29

Shaan slyly leads her towards the entrance door, while twirling her; he opens the front door and step outside. She stops dancing, backs away. He stretches his hand out. *

She hesitantly grabs his hand; he pulls her out into the common area. *

29A INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE/Common AREA - NIGHT 29A *

Beads of sweat roll down Mehak's forehead, her vision is getting hazier with every passing minute. *

Shaan is talking but she can't hear him, everything is getting distorted. *

The music fading away, The sound of the lift opening throws Mehak into complete panic mode.

She disengages and runs back into the house. Shaan looks on with disappointed.

30 INT. THE APARTMENT, SOFA IN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 30

(11:00 pm)

In the house, Mehak is panicking, mumbling to herself. She is seated on the sofa, her arms around her knees. A box of Chinese noodles enters frame. She looks up at Shaan smiling at her.

SHAAN

Tumhara reward...

Mehak sighs.

SHAAN (CONT'D)

Kha lo, dopahar se kuch nahin khaya na?

She manages a weak smile, and takes the food. And takes a bite out of it. The frown on her face disappears.

MEHAK

Oh my god. This is delicious.

SHAAN

Paas hi mein hai. Home delivery karte hain.

He places a card for Chinese restaurant on the table. There are a few other visiting cards & menu cards, which also he places next to it.

SHAAN (CONT'D)

Medical, Kirana, Bakery, Doodhwala, Sabziwali. Bai ka figure out karta hoon...

MEHAK

Nahin, nahin...No bai.

Shaan doesn't push her on the topic. They continue to eat. Few bites later, the frown returns.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Main kabhi theek nahi hogi Shaan.

SHAAN

Aisa nahi hota hai yaar. What comes down must go up. Law of physics.

MEHAK

(Smiles sadly)

Ulta bol rahe ho.

SHAAN

Sach bol raha hoon...

Mehak looks disappointed.

SHAAN (CONT'D)

Duniya ke kai bade artists, philosophers, entertainers ko agoraphobia tha...

MEHAK

Kaun?

SHAAN

Barbara Streisand, singer. Kim Basinger, actress. Aur Freud bhi!

MEHAK

Ek bhi Indian naam nahin hai na...

Shaan smiles sheepishly.

SHAAN

(Laughs)

Tumhe gore logon ka phobia hua hai...

MEHAK

So funny.

SHAAN

Research karta hoon, hundred percent koi na koi to milega jise agoraphobia hua tha!

(beat)

Ok seriously, you know that TV chef Paula Deen? Woh ghar se bahar nikal nahin paati thi, to ghar ke andar baith kar cooking shuru kar diya. Aaj famous hai cooking ke liye!

Mehak feels worse.

MEHAK

Par main toh...

SHAAN

Anda bhi boil nahin kar sakti. I know, but paint toh kar sakti ho na! you got 60 grand for your last painting.

*
*

Mehak is not in favor of the idea.

MEHAK

Woh paisa toh Anusha ne kharch kar diya hoga. Mere treatment par. And you think I haven't tried Shaan? Nahi hota mujhse painting yaar.

SHAAN

Be positive Mehak. Mental block hai, nikal jaayega. You just have to keep trying.

(beat)

Kitne saare offers hain!

Mehak glances at her laptop, lying shut to one side.

MEHAK

What the hell? Tumhe kaise pata ki offers hain? Tumne... mere mails padhe..?

SHAAN

No! Page khulla tha to maine sirf upar se dekha...

MEHAK

Shaan really! How dare you!

SHAAN

Relax Mehak, it's no big...

SHAAN (CONT'D)

(Snaps feral)

Do not tell me to relax! I hate that word!

Shaan puts up his hands in surrender.

MEHAK

Main tumhaari personal cheezen dekhun to kaisa lagega tumhein? Huh?

She fiddles with his bag, starts to pull things out (design plans, blue prints, a swiss arm) when she sees a change of clothes.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Kahin ja rahe ho?

SHAAN

(Awkward)

Maine socha ki...aaj raat ruk jaata hoon. Nai jagah hai...

Mehek's look stops him in his tracks. She starts putting the stuff back when a pack of condoms falls out. Mehek is enraged.

MEHAK

Yeh kya hai? Kya socha tumne? Mehek ka toh dimag harab ho gaya hai. Toh kisi bakre ki tarah khilao pilao hasao, dance karo, do char baatein karo, phir yeh?

She flings the packet in his face.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Kahan jayegi bhaagke. Ghar se toh nikal nahi sakti. Get out of my house Shaan!

SHAAN

Mehek... please re...

MEHEK

Relax bologe to zabaan kheench loongi!

Shaan, massively hurt, waits for her to realize what she is saying. She sits down, defeated by her situation.

SHAAN

Mehek... is ghar mein teen kamre hain. Tum bedroom mein so jao, main kahin aur so loonga. I only feel bad ki mujhe yeh bolna pad raha hai.

Mehak calms down. Shaan starts to get up to leave...

MEHEK

Kiske liye hai?

SHAAN
 (turns back to her)
 Sorry?

MEHEK
 Condoms! Kiske liye hai?

SHAAN
 Tum nahin jaanti usse.

Shaan walks to door.

MEHAK
 Toh Theek hai. Wapis mat aana
 kabhi.

Shaan gives a nod and a wave good night.

SHAAN
 Kal atta hoon.

He shuts the door behind him.

31 INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE/Common AREA - NIGHT

31

(11:30 pm)

Shaan presses the lift button, and waits for the elevator. Mehak quietly opens the front door. Shaan turns on hearing the sound. Mehak peeps out at him, the door open only a couple of inches.

MEHAK
 Shaan... Thank you.

He walks back up to her, thinking she has changed her mind.

SHAAN
 (smiles)
 Jaa raha hoon isliye?

MEHAK
 I'm sorry Shaan.

SHAAN
 It's cool, Mehak. And you know agar
 tumhe bura lagta hai toh, I can
 stop seeing her. It's nothing
 serious.

Shaan blushes a tad bit. They share a moment. Mehak acts as if she just remembered something.

MEHAK

Oh, Jaate jaate yeh garbage wahan phenk doge please?

SHAAN (ANGER)

No Mehak! Bahut ho gaya Mehak. Tum khud karlo.

MEHAK

Meri help nahi karoge?

He walks back to the lift. And then turns around.

SHAAN

Help hi kar raha hoon. Kam se kam itna to kar sakti ho na khud ke liye?

MEHAK

(Displeased)
Fine.

The lift eats him up. Mehak shuts her front door.

32 INT. THE APARTMENT, KITCHEN - NIGHT

32

Mehak while putting the leftovers in the fridge, notices the garbage bags piling in the corner.

MEHAK

Samajhta kya hai apne aap ko? Uske bagair main kachra nahin phenk sakti?

The bell rings. She smiles, he came back.

33 INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE/Common AREA - MIDNIGHT

33

She opens the door with a big smile on her face.

MEHAK

You are the sweetest...

It's not Shaan, it's the crazy lady she saw earlier in the compound. She stares at Mehak. She is dressed in a long nightgown.

GUL

Hormuz idhar hai kya!

Mehak is taken aback for a moment. Mehak bangs the door shut.

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

Gul rings the bell again. *

GUL (CONT'D) *

Usey bahar bheko. Kitni baar bola
ki Hormuz ko chupne keliye jagah
mat do. Hormuz bahar aav hamnaj. *

MEHAK *

Yahaan koi nahin hai. *

Mehak peeps out at her through peephole. It is as if Gul
knows and addresses the peephole. *

GUL (O.S.) *

Jiah! Wapas aa gayi? Is time tereko
jaroor maar daalega! Hormuz bhi
nahi bacha payega tere ko! *

She walks away. Mehak looks through the peep hole at her
standing outside Malhotra's door. She rings the bell, he
opens it half asleep. *

GUL (CONT'D) *

Hormuz idhar hai? *

MALHOTRA *

Gul, Ghar mein pankha hai na? *

GUL *

Haan hai! *

MALHOTRA *

Haan to pankhe pe dekha? Wahin
baitha ghoom raha hoga! *

GUL *

Doctor ne mana kiya hai toh bhi
idhar udhar bhatakta rehta hai. *

MALHOTRA *

Kaun blame karega bechare ko. *

GUL *

Hain, You think this is a joke? *

MALHOTRA *

No, I think, it's really late babe. *

He shuts the door on her face. *

34 INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE - NIGHT (NIGHTMARE) 34 *

Sharp R.E.M light shoots in through the peephole. Mehak approaches the door slowly. *

INS INT. THE APARTMENT, COMMON AREA - NIGHT INS *

Mehak's pov - Track in to end of the common area, which directly opens up to the dilapidated complex, and the cab is seen in the distance with hazard lights blinking. *

Mehak's pov (Using 3 lenses: fish eye, 25mm, 50mm) Zoom in instead of track. *

INS-A EXT. DILAPIDATED COMPLEX - MIDNIGHT (NIGHTMARE) INS-A *

SLOW TRACK IN towards a cab parked in the distance. It's the same cab that she was abused in. The hazard lights are blinking. *

35 INT. THE APARTMENT, DIVAN IN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 35 *

ECU - The apartment is silent except for the clock ticking (merge with sound of lights blinking). Mehak sleeps on the couch in the living room. Mehak starts to stir in her sleep, restless, she seems to be having a bad dream. *

CUT TO: *

INS-B EXT. THE DILAPIDATED COMPLEX - MIDNIGHT (NIGHTMARE) INS-B *

SLOW TRACK IN - There are a group of people (10 -15 people) around the cab, looking inside. The cab is shaking. Sounds of moaning, heavy breathing, rasping whisper, someone being attacked, fabric ripping and woman's cry. And ice crackling... We move in closer, but before we can get a glimpse of what is happening inside the car... *

36 INT. THE APARTMENT, DIVAN IN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 36 *

(02:30 am - All ext building lights are off)

ELS - Mehak wakes up with a start. Panting heavily, sweating profusely. She looks around and gathers her bearings. Her breathing calms down as she realizes it was a nightmare.

37 INT. THE APARTMENT, KITCHEN - NIGHT 37

Mehak pours water in a glass. She opens the freezer, pulls out ice trays to take out some ice when she notices that there's a bloody finger in the icebox.

She screams and drops the icebox on the floor.

She looks at the floor, only pieces of ice, no chopped finger.

The sound of the ice crackling intensifies as we zoom in on her startled face.

She shuts the freezer. Black. Sound of doorbell.

DAY 2

38 INT. THE APARTMENT, DIVAN IN LIVING ROOM - NOON 38

MS of Mehak - asleep on the divan, the windows have rays of light shooting in behind her. Doorbell wakes her up. She gets up still groggy with sleep. The doorbell rings again. She gets up. *

39 INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE/COMMON AREA - NOON 39

(Behind Mehak - diagonal track) We move with Mehak as she goes up to the door. Whoever it is out there is incessant. Mehak peeps through the peephole.

Mehak's pov - A huge, tobacco chewing ruffian, dressed in formal wear - DEBT COLLECTOR. It's not someone she recognizes. Just then the man on the other side tries to peep in as well.

Mehak moves back.

COLLECTOR (O.S.)

Hello! Mujhe pata hai aap ghar pe hain. Please Darvaaza kholiye! Ms. Jiah Khuranna.

MEHAK

Woh abhi yahaan nahi rehti hai.

COLLECTOR (O.S.)

303, Overlook Apartments yehi hai na?

MEHAK

Lekin main...

COLLECTOR (O.S.)
 Madam, aapka 52 thousand one
 hundred and twenty seven rupees ka
 outstanding hai...paanch mahine se
 credit card payment nahin kiya...

OTS of Debt Collector - the door opens an inch, chain lock
 still on, Mehak peeps out, her sight line always on the
 floor.

MEHAK
 Main Jiah nahin hoon..... Wo pehle
 rehti thi yahan.

In the mirror, we see her hands on the door, Collector's face
 in mirror.

COLLECTOR
 Aise hi aap ki baat kaise maan lu?
 ID dikhaiye Madam!

Mehak's pov - He tries to put his leg in... She slams the
 door shut with all her might. Luckily pulls his leg out at
 the last moment, but the door slams his foot. He screams in
 pain. And bangs the door.

OTS of Mehak becomes frontal; she turns around, her back to
 the door as she slowly slinks down to the floor (becomes top
 angle). She is muttering and holding her self.

MEHAK
 Go away! Go away. Go away....

Collector is still banging on the door.

COLLECTOR (O.S)
 Khol! Payment nahin kiya to andar
 ghus ke samaan le jaayenge hum log!

He kicks the door a couple of time.

She covers her ears and rocks back and forth.

CU of Mehak - She uncovers her ears. Silence, he's gone. She
 is a little relieved. When he bangs the door one last time.
 She lurches out of frame.

Top angle - we see her lying defeated on the floor, in a pool
 of her vomit.

Mehak is seen stepping out of the guest room and walking towards the door, in her hand she holds a couple of Jiah's clothes and rope, all knotted together - she carries it like a baby with an umbilical cord.

41 INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE - DAY 41

CU - Mehak ties one end of a Saree (*Set it up as one of Jiah's clothes*), to her waist with a double knot.

CU - She ties the other end to a coat rack next to the door. She tugs at it a couple of times, to ensure the knot will hold.

41A INT. THE BUILDING, COMMON AREA/ENTRANCE - DAY 41A

From the other end of corridor, with dustbins in f/g we see - Mehak opens the door and uses her shoe as a door stopper. Looks around to see if the coast is clear. She then forces herself to step out of her apartment. In her hand she carries the garbage bags.

CU (Tele Shot from inside the house) - Mehak walks further in to common area, the make shift rope uncoiling and garbage bags in her hand are seen.

Frontal of Mehak - She takes one tentative step at a time towards the garbage bin. She is past the elevator and half way there, when she hears the lift stop on her floor. Mehak freezes, she turns a nervous glance to the lift. Niki steps out of the lift and smiles at her. Track with Mehak as she drops the garbage bags in the middle of the corridor and runs back to her house. The Shot becomes a frontal of Niki who is confused by her behavior.

OTS of Niki - as she sees Mehak absurdly run, getting tangled in the sari and nearly falling over as she gets in to her apartment and bangs door shut. The door opens a squeak and the rest of saree is pulled in.

Frontal of Niki, she takes a step towards Mehak's door.

NIKI

Hello Madam! Garbage yahan chodna
mana hai!

Mehak doesn't reply.

ELS with dustbin in f/g. Niki picks the bags up and dumps them in the bin for her.

NIKI (CONT'D)

(yells)
You are welcome!

A moment of silence and then Mehak's voice echoes in the common area.

MEHAK (O.S.)

Thank you!

Niki smiles.

41B INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE - DAY 41B

Slightly toppish - Mehak smiles thankful for the help, she leaves the frame. *

42 INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM - DAY 42 *

(01:30 pm) *

CU of a pic of Anusha and Mehak on phone, call being made to Anusha. She doesn't answer, its goes to her answering machine. *

Mehak sits on the bed, has had a bath, changed her clothes, hair still tied up with a towel. *

MEHEK *

Anu, it's me. Maine teen baar tumhara phone nahin uthaya to tum bhi wahi karogi? Main to beemar hoon, what's your excuse? Anyway I love you. Aur abhi abhi main khud garbage bahar tak rakh ke aayi! Call me back. *

As she talks to her sister, Mehak's attention goes to the diary. Camera drifts, following her sight line and stops on Jiah's diary. *

Beat. *

Mehak reads from it... *

MEHAK *

Captain Rajani is just horrible! It's taken me months to realize that every time I ask him what the temperature outside is before landing he looks at my boobs and says 36. *

(MORE) *

MEHAK (CONT'D)

And I have announced it in
Chandigarh, in Pune, I have
announced it in Nagpur. The
temperature outside is 36degrees
centigrade. If Manu finds out about
this he will flip out. And kill me!

At the end of it, She suddenly freezes. The diary falls out
of her hand. She keeps looking at something at the foot of
the bed. We can't quite see what she is seeing. She backs off
the bed slowly, on the brink of fear. She pulls out her phone
from her pocket and calls Shaan, all the time keeping an eye
on the spot. Shaan answers the call after a few rings. It is
on speaker phone.

SHAAN

Hi Em..... all ok?

MEHEK

I don't think so. Mere bistar mein
billi hai.

SHAAN

Aur tum kahan ho?

MEHEK

Bedroom mein. Matlab... Shaan,
Mujhe pata nahin ki yahan sachmuch
billi hai ya sirf mujhe dikh rahi
hai..?

SHAAN

Mehek, suno, kuch awaaz karo, agar
billi behri nahin hui to bhaag
jaayegi.....

MEHEK

Aur nahin bhaagi to?

SHAAN

To main bhaag ke wahan aa
jaaonga....

Beat.

MEHEK

Kal ke liye I'm sorry.

SHAAN

I know. Me too.

MEHEK

Ruko ek minute.

Mehak barks at the cat. Her eyes dart... We cut to her OTS for the first time, there is no cat there. *

MEHEK (CONT'D) *

Gayi gayi! Sachmuch ki billi thi! *

SHAAN *

(laughs) *

Good. Chalo, shaam ko milta hoon. *

She cuts the call and quickly shuts the window. Latches it tight. She looks outside. *

INT. THE BUILDING, COMPOUND - DAY *

There is cat running away in the distance. *

INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM- DAY *

Wide shot from doorway, with bathroom in b/g - Mehak bends down to pick up the diary lying by the foot of the bed, a few pages and photos have slipped out and gone under the bed. Mehak crawls under the bed to reach for the pages. *

OTS Mehak, her hand is reaching for the pages, when out of focus in b/g, a pair of feet run behind her. As she turns to look, OTS becomes a pov - of the feet running by. They went in to the bathroom. *

Mehak quickly crawls out the other side of the bed and runs out of the bedroom. *

The camera watches her from bathroom door, Mehak turns back to glance, the camera chases after her - she bangs the bedroom door shut on camera. *

43 INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 2 - DAY 43 *

OTS - Mehak shuts door and locks it, someone bangs the door from inside the bedroom, making Mehak jump. *

Mehak's pov - The handle being turned, door banging, someone is desperately trying to get out. *

Lock in f/g, Mehak's terrified face staring at it, but we can see the door is not banging. *

OTS Mehak - She backs out of corridor, Another loud bang! Mehak turns (OTS becomes Frontal) running through the corridor petrified. *

44(+A) INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE/ COMMON AREA - CONTINUOUS 44(+A) *

She reaches the door (Cam OTS again) She unlocks the door quickly, constantly looking over her shoulder. *

Low angle, MS of Mehak (Niki's pov) - Mehak opens the door and tries to run but her phobia won't let her go any further. She is stuck between a rock and a hard place. *

Mehak's pov - The floor in front of her... *

MS, low angle - Mehak is in the brink of a panic attack when Niki calls out to her. *

NIKI *

Hey there? Are you okay? *

Cam pulls out to reveal Niki, becomes OTS. *

Mehak's pov - her vision is blurry and she is suffocating with tension. She looks up from the floor to Niki. *

Niki's pov - Mehak looks up with crazy eyes at Niki, Mehak steps back and shuts the door. *

MLS of Mehak's door - Niki enters frame (OTS) and takes a step towards door to knock n it, when the door opens and Mehak peeps out. *

MEHAK *

Andar baithna hai to..? *

Niki is a little hesitant but then gives her a big goofy smile. *

NIKI *

No thanks ya. Actually, ghar ki chaabi bhool gayi mein, aur mere parents kaam pe hain... *

Niki goes back to drawing on her bag/phone game. Beat. Looks up, Mehek is still standing at the door. *

NIKI (CONT'D) *

Are you ok? *

MEHAK *

Andar aa ke wait karo... *

Niki walks upto Mehek's door. *

NIKI *

Hi I'm Niki. *

Mehek is unable to take her outstretched hand. She turns it
into a namaste. *

NIKI (CONT'D) *
Ram ram. Main Niki hoon. *

MEHEK *
Mehek. *

NIKI *
Cool... Tum theek to ho na? *

MEHEK *
Shayad... but maybe... Mere bedroom *
mein koi hai. *

NIKI *
Matlab... koi jise tum jaanti ho, *
right? *

MEHAK *
Nahin. I think... Billi hai. *

NIKI *
Whaaaaat? Billi se darti ho? *

MEHAK *
Bahut. *

45 INT. THE APARTMENT, KITCHEN - DAY

45

Wide shot from kitchen - Niki walks in and continues talking, *
Mehak follows her. *

NIKI *
Black cat with white spots? *

Mehek nods, not knowing what else to do. *

NIKI (CONT'D) *
Building mein ghoomti rehti hai, *
khidkiyon se andar ghus jaati hai. *
Thali aur spoon do. *

MEHAK *
Kya? *

Mehek goes in to kitchen to take out thali and spoon. *

NIKI *
Jungle mein shikari kya karte hain? *
Tigers ko awaaz karke bhagate *
hain... *

(MORE)

NIKI (CONT'D)

khule area mein jahan se wo shoot
ka saken... I hate hunters. I love
tigers.

*
*
*

Mehak hands Niki spoon and thali and surreptitiously takes a
knife for herself.

*
*

46 INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 1 - NOON 46

2 shot, OTS Mehak - Niki turns back and the two walk down
corridor, Mehak behind Niki. They turn the corner.

46A INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 2 - NOON 46A

Frontal shot (from window side) - Niki approaches bedroom
door, but Mehak has stopped halfway.

Niki walks towards the door unafraid. She shoots open the
bedroom door and enters making a lot of noise. Silence. Fear
builds up on Mehak's face.

MEHAK

Niki? Niki?

She nervously moves towards the bedroom holding the knife,
just as she is about to enter, Niki screams and comes running
out. Startling Mehak, she screams. Both girls get startled
together. Mehak drops her knife.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Tum cheekhin kyun?

NIKI

Bed ke neeche spider hai...

MEHAK

Aur?

NIKI

Aur kuch bhi nahin hai.

Mehak looks over Niki into the room fearfully.

MEHAK

Koi nahin hai?

Mehak hesitantly steps in.

*

47 INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NOON 47

*

The bedroom and bathroom lie empty. Niki enters behind Mehak.

NIKI
 Bathroom, clear. Cupboard, clear.
 Bed ke neeche, (shudders) spider.
 Tum to aise dar rahi ho jaise tumne
 bhoot dekha!

Mehak considers that. Sound of a blender.

48

INT. THE APARTMENT, KITCHEN - DAY

48

(02:30 pm)

Dolly shot from blender to Mehak, making chocolate shake in the f/g, Niki in the b/g.

NIKI
 Tumse milke bahut khushi hui. Mere
 koi friends nahin hain, sab mujhe
 freak bolte hain, par tum to mere
 se bhi zyada.
 (Low whistle and Imitates
 Obelix gesture - the
 romans are crazy)

MEHAK
 Mujhe agoraphobia hai.
 (Beat)
 Could you get the ice please?

NIKI
 Agoraphobia? Sounds exotic. So
 basically tum kabhi Taj Mahal nahin
 ja sakti, right?!

She keeps an eye on Niki to see if Niki spots anything funny in the freezer. Niki continues talking.

MEHAK
 Taj Mahal chodo, main Gateway of
 India tak bhi nahin ja sakti...

NIKI
 Tum theek jagah aayi ho, iss
 building mein crazy logon ki
 monopoly hai. Mannu, hanste rehta
 hai, creepiest smile ever. Gool
 auntie apne husband Hormuz ko
 dhoondte rehti hai. Maine to kabhi
 usko nahin dekha.

Mehak walks to cabinet, takes out glasses. Niki shuts the fridge door.

2 shot (from fridge) - Mehak pours the drink into the glasses, Niki adds the ice in the drink.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Pata nahin wo sach mein hai, ya
Gool auntie ki marbles gul hain.
Aur ab tum.

49

INT. THE APARTMENT, DIVAN IN LIVING ROOM - DAY

49

(03:00 pm)

2Shot MLS - The girls are seated on the divan drinking their choco shake. Niki gets up and starts walking around. Knife lies to one side in f/g, on side table next to side sofa. *

NIKI *

So, tumhe taj mahal phobia bachpan se hai? *

MEHAK *

(Shakes her head no) Main artist hoon. Paintings banati theen. *

MEHAK (CONT'D) *

Is ghar main jo rehti thi... Jiah right? Tum usey bhi jaanti thi? *

The girls share a smile. Slow Track in to Mehak. *

NIKI *

Yeah, of course. She was wierd. Mannu aur Jiah apne aap ko Ram Leela samajhte the...but unke ghar se jo awaazen aati thi was more like Ravan and Hanuman fighting. Cheekhna, chillana, platen todna aur uske baad... (zips her lips) Parental control. *

MEHAK *

Parental control? *

NIKI *

(Explains) Very loud lovemaking! Scarred forever. *

MEHAK *

Kya hua usey? Maine suna woh gayab ho gayi... *

NIKI *

That Manu... *

Niki's cellphone rings.

2 Shot w/ painting in the middle - Just then Niki answers her cell phone, talks in a tribal language.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Oh great, chalo, mere parents aa gaye...

She gets up and collects her things.

INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Niki is saying bye to Mehak. Mehak stretches out her hand, Niki takes it with a smile.

MEHAK
Come again.

Mehak shuts the door. Sound of drill. She wonders where it is coming from.

50

INT. THE APARTMENT, GUEST ROOM - EVENING

50

(05:00 pm)

LS of room, as if pov of wall. Mehak walks in, when she hears a low rumbling sound. It seems to emanate from the wall across from her. She approaches it with caution. Suddenly the sound stops. Mehak moves close to the wall.

Camera slightly pans with her, as she approaches wall and puts her ear to it - When suddenly the drilling sound returns and a sharp drilling nail breaks through in the f/g, almost piercing Mehak's eye. [CG PLATE]

OTS Mehak - She yells in horror, backing away from the wall. Light shoots through.

Frontal of Mehak, the light shoots through crack on and off. A muffled voice calls out to her.

MALHOTRA (O.S.)
Oh God! I'm terribly sorry, aap theek to hain?

Mehak is breathing heavily, still recovering from the fright.

MALHOTRA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hello! Miss? Please aap ko chot to nahin aayi...? Main abhi aaya.

MEHAK

No. No! I'm fine.

MALHOTRA (O.S.)

Oh thank god! Main aapke side ka wall repair karne aa jaon?

MEHAK

Nai, nai. Koi zaroorat nahin.

MALHOTRA (O.S.)

Are you sure?

MEHAK

Yes. I'm okay.

MALHOTRA (O.S.)

Yeh naye building bahar se to theek lagte hain par andar se sab sade hue hote hain...

Profile shot - Mehak looks through the crack to see...

Mehak's pov - Malhotra's big brown eyes staring back at her.

Frontal (wall pov) - She quickly moves away and places calendar/mirror/old painting over it. Black.

51 INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM - EVENING

51

(06:00 pm)

Profile Shot - Mehak sits by the window, holding the diary in her hand. She starts to go through it.

Intercut between low angle of diary, with only mehak's eyes seen & pov shots of Jiah's writing - Mehak reads diary, understands abusive relationship Jiah was in, flips through diary, reads snippets...his paranoias, insecurities, possessiveness, suspicious nature...sometimes I feel scared of him, sometimes I am scared of what I will do to him... today he proposed to me, was I right to say yes... Do I really want to spend the rest of my life with this man? He is a misogynistic pig...He doesn't get me and my dreams. Ofcourse I want kids, but i want a career too. How can he expect me to give everything up, would he do the same? Am I mad to be with him, maybe we are not meant to be together...but the sex, when he touches me, I have never come like that...

LS profile shot - she shuts the diary, Mehak can't bear the intimacy part.

Low angle frontal - She pulls out a photo that sticks out from the diary. On the back is written in pink lipstick - 'We are hitched.'

Top Angle OTS of Mehak, with ring in one hand and photo in the other - Jiah and Malhotra together, holding up ring in a selfie.

OTS Mehak - When she hears a sound in Corridor 1. She freezes, footsteps running through the corridor and then a loud THUD! Coming from outside the room. The door swings open! She swiftly turns towards the corridor.

Her pov - The mechanical sparrow is fallen on the floor, its moving in circles, making a metallic clinking sound.

52 INT. THE APARTMENT, BATHROOM - EVENING 52

(Magic Hour)

Camera inside Bathroom, frontal becomes OTS - Mehak runs into the bathroom and shuts the door. Mehak latches it from inside, she waits next to the door, her trembling hands try to dial Shaan on her phone when She hears a faint moaning sound coming from behind, is it the drainage or is someone behind her?

Frontal of Mehak, slight pan as - She slowly turns her head and looks over her shoulder. In her peripheral vision she sees an outline of a woman lying on the bathroom floor. She screams loudly in terror.

52A INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM - EVENING 52A

LS towards bathroom door. We hear her scream.

52B INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 2 - EVENING 52B

We cut to the corridor, looking towards bedroom door and window, Mehak's screams can be heard in the corridor.

52C INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE - EVENING 52C

Camera faces towards Corridor 1. Her scream continues.

53 INT. THE BUILDING, COMMON AREA - DUSK TO NIGHT 53

(7:00pm)

The entrance door. Silence. Time lapse seen through window.

53A INT. THE BUILDING, COMMON AREA - NIGHT 53A

LS of Corridor - The lift door opens. It becomes OTS of Shaan who walks (Track with him) out with flowers and some takeaway food. His laptop bag is strapped across his chest. Whistling the tune of the song they danced to last night.

He rings the bell a few times, no response.

SHAAN

Open up, it's me.

He removes his phone, dials her number - she doesn't pick up. He removes the spare keys from his laptop bag and opens the door. The chain lock isn't on.

Camera stays out, and in mirror next to door we see - Shaan placing his bag on the coffee table.

SHAAN (CONT'D)

Mehak. Dinner!

53B INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 1 - NIGHT 53B

LS from Corridor 1, towards door. He places the food on the kitchen platform. Notices the credit card bill for Jiah (what bank?), gives it a cursory glance. *

SHAAN

Mehak!

Shaan walks towards cam.

53C INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 2 - NIGHT 53C

Cam at window, towards painting 2 - Shaan walks down the corridor to her bedroom. Knocks on the door.

SHAAN

Jaanti ho kis Indian celebrity ko agoraphobia hai? Main andar aa raha hoon...?

He opens the door and enters.

53D INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

53D

LS from toilet door, towards bedroom entrance - Shaan walks in. Mehak is no where to be seen. He looks at the bathroom, walks towards it and tries it - its shut. He knocks on it, Tries to open it, its locked.

SHAAN

Mehak! Are you in there?

He dials her number, the phone rings inside. Slightly worried now.

SHAAN (CONT'D)

Jawab do Mehek! Mehek?

No response, he gets a bad feeling about this.

Profile shot - Shaan decides to break the door. He kicks it a couple of times, till the latch gives way.

53E INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM/BATHROOM - NIGHT

53E

Steadicam - The door swings open, Cam follows Shaan in. The bathroom is empty. Tilt down as Shaan looks - Mehak's phone lies on the bathroom floor which is covered in her vomit.

Frontal of Shaan, door behind him. Shaan picks up her phone, he is confused and anxious.

SHAAN

Oh god no! Mehak?

Suddenly her hand falls into frame from the top. Right in front of Shaan's face, dripping red paint. He jumps out of his skin in fright, backing away, he looks up to see...

Shaan's pov - Mehak lying in the loft. Semi-conscious.

INTERMISSION.

INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

(9:30pm)

Birds eye view of the bedroom. Its lies empty.

SHAAN (O.S.)

Cam 1 - check.

*
*
*
*
*

54A	INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 1 & 2- NIGHT	54A	*
	Birds eye view of the corridors. Empty.		*
	SHAAN (O.S.)		*
	Cam 2 - check.		*
54B	INT. THE APARTMENT, GUEST ROOM - NIGHT	54B	*
	Birds eye view of the guest bedroom. Packed with inanimate objects.		*
	SHAAN (O.S.)		*
	CAM 3 - Check.		*
54C	INT. THE APARTMENT, KITCHEN - NIGHT	54C	*
	Birds eye view of the kitchen, Also empty. We can see a part of the corridor outside the kitchen entrance.		*
	SHAAN (O.S.)		*
	Cam 4 - check.		*
54D	INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE - NIGHT	54D	*
	Birds eye view of the common area. All the front doors are decorated with diyas and rangoli .		*
	SHAAN (O.S.)		*
	CAM 5 - Check.		*
	INT. THE APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT		*
	Visual is filled with Static.		*
	SHAAN (O.S.)		*
	Cam 6 - Damn it.		*
	We can hear Shaan tinkering around with the camera and then the visual clears up.		*
	Top angle CCTV pov - Shaan is standing on a stool. Mehak can be seen in the b/g, wrapped in a blanket. She is drinking soup out of a bowl. Her eyes are glazed over, she looks paler and weaker.		*
	OTS Mehak, Shaan in b/g - She is looking at the CCTV feeds on the old television. Shaan starts to step down. Next to the stool sits empty boxes in which the cameras came packed in.		*

SHAAN (CONT'D)

Ok... saare camere on hain.. Ab se
jo kuch tumhe dikhega, wo iss mein
record ho jayega...

MEHAK

Bhoot bhi record hoga?

Shaan is bewildered by this, he looks back at her.

Shaan's pov, Track in -

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Shaan, I'm very sure... Iss ghar
mein gadbad hai.... Shayad Jiah ki
aatma...

SHAAN

Mehek?? Tumhaare paas kya proof hai
ki Jiah mar chuki hai? For all you
know, wo iss waqt kisi nightclub
mein dance kar rahi hogi, apni
zindagi jee rahi hogi. Wo yahan
rehti thi, ab nahin rehti. That's
all. You just had a panic attack!

Shaan enters frame (pov becomes 2 shot) and sits down next to
Mehak, trying to comfort her. Camera continues to track in.

MEHAK

No. Wo mar chuki hai...

SHAAN

Kya dekha tumne...?

MEHAK

Maine Jiah ko dekha Shaan! Bathroom
mein padi hui thi, bahut khoon tha
wahan..... I think she was
attacked.....

Track in stops. Just then three quick knocks on the door.

OTS Mehak and Shaan w/ TV in b/g - Mehak looks to door
worried, Shaan looks at CCTV feed on TV. It's Niki.

CCTV pov - Niki looking around notices the cam on top of
door. Shaan opens the door.

INT. THE APARTMENT, COMMON AREA/ENTRANCE - NIGHT

OTS Niki as she steps in through door, Mehak in b/g. Mehak is pleased to see her.

NIKI
Hello Mehek! (To Shaan) Hi, Niki.

Niki's got a box of Indian sweets that she hands to Shaan and walks in. Shot becomes OTS of Shaan.

MEHAK
Thank you Niki.

OTS of Mehak - Shaan gives Niki a dirty look. Niki unaware.

NIKI
Mera code kaisa laga Mehek? Teen
baar knock matlab, it's me.
Doorbell bajne se tumhe tension ho
jaata hai na?

Mehak's OTS is now 2 shot of her and Niki, with Shaan in b/g -
Niki looks at the CCTV feeds on TV.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Whoa! Yeh kya? Don't tell me! Yeh
sab billi ki wajah se?

MEHAK
Err, yeh... Billi nahin, wo doosra,
tumhe bataya tha na...

NIKI
Doosra...? You mean bhoot?

Shift focus to Shaan. Shaan glares at Mehak and interrupts.

SHAAN
Hello? Koi bhoot woot nahin hai.
Yeh cc cameras security ke liye
hain. Mehek aur main kuch important
baat kar rahe the, please baad mein
aana.

NIKI
Wookay. (To Mehek) I thought tumhe
company chahiye hogi...

MEHAK
Err Niki, thodi der mein aana, for
some cold coffee?

SHAAN

(To Mehek) Is she old enough to drink coffee?

NIKI

Excuse me, main college mein padhti hoon! Political Science!

SHAAN

Good for you! Ja ke padhai karo.

Niki is taken aback by his dismissal. She looks at Mehek. Mehek smiles weakly.

NIKI

Okay Uncle. (To Mehek) Give me a call.

OTS Mehak - Niki gives Shaan a dirty look as she leaves. Shaan shuts the door on her. Track in with Mehak as she walks towards Shaan.

SHAAN

Please Mehak, random logon ko aise ghar mein ghusne mat do...

MEHAK

Random nahin, bahut sweet ladki hai. Itna rudely kyon behave kar rahe ho?

SHAAN

I was not rude Mehek. Hum log baat kar rahe the and she just barged in! Ab jaake poori building ko pata nahin kya kya bolegi. Main tumhaare ache ke liye keh raha hoon.

LS from kitchen, the pillar divides them.

MEHAK

Mujhe tumhaare behaviour mein acha kam control zyaada dikh raha hai. Chalo!

SHAAN

To ab mujhe care aur control ke beech ka fark tumse seekhna padega?

Firecrackers burst outside the window, startling Mehak. She snaps, lashes out.

MEHAK

Mujhse aise baat karne ki koi
zaroorat nahin./ Don't patronise
me.

Shaan realizes she is upset, he keeps quiet.

57 INT. THE APARTMENT, DIVAN IN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

57

(11:00pm)

CU of Mehak looking out through window, a firecracker lights her up red and yellow. Shaan walks up to her and joins her.

MEHEK

Bas, muhe yahan nahin rehna, mujhe
apne ghar jaana hai Shaan

SHAAN

Do din bhi nahin hue hain Mehek...
Tum dheere dheere comfortable ho
jaaogi. Nai jahgah hai..

MEHAK

Nai puraane ki baat nahin hai
Shaan. Wahan ghar se bahar nikalte
darr lagta tha. Yahan to ghar ke
andar bhi darr lag raha hai. Main
kahan jaaon Shaan?

Mehak walks out of frame. Shaan pulls the curtain.

58(A-H) INT. THE APARTMENT, DIVAN IN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

58(A-H)

(01:00am)

MCU of Mehak as she sleeps. Mehak wakes up with a start, Cam pulls back to reveal Shaan is not next to her. She looks around.

MS from sofa: CCTV feed playing on the TV - We see Shaan walking across the bedroom. Mehak comes and sits down on Sofa, making it an OTS. Shan is seen going in to the bathroom door and shuts door behind him. Suddenly one by one all the feeds turn to static.

MCU of Mehak reacting.

Mehak's pov (Niki's in reality), from front door - The bedroom feed clears up and to her horror she see Jiah crawling out of the bathroom, we can't see her face from that angle.

Her hands are bloody, leaving a trail of blood as she crawls through the bedroom. She is wearing Jiah's air hostess uniform. She suddenly disappears with static.

MCU of Mehak - She is horrified.

MEHAK

Shaan! Where are you?

Mehak's pov (Niki's in reality) - The corridor feed clears up - Footprints in red. Jiah re-appears in the corridor camera crawling towards the living room, leaving a trail of blood.

MCU of Mehak - she is scared.

(JUMP AXIS) Mehak's pov - from TV we pan towards corridor 1, where Mehak expects ghost to now appear. As we pan it becomes OTS of Mehak, there is no one appearing at the corridor to living room. She turns back to the TV screen.

Mehak's pov - Suddenly Jiah is right behind Mehak. She can see her crawling towards her in the camera feed. For the first time we get a clear view of Jiah's face but its moving at high speed, in constant motion, her face is a blur. The rest of her body is moving at a normal speed in comparison to the rapid movements of her face. She watches Jiah's bloodied hand with a chopped finger stretching out, almost grabbing Mehak's shoulder.

Frontal MCU, track in on Mehak as her fear grows, she is resisting the urge to turn.

Jiah's pov (avoid TV in b/g) - Track in to OTS of Mehak as if someone is reaching out for her, Mehak is stiff with fear. She is too scared to turn around to see, but she does. A hand enters the frame and grabs her shoulder. Pan to get frontal of Mehak turning and screaming.

LS from Kitchen corridor - Mehak turns screaming aloud, swinging her hand. To find Shaan standing behind her. The sofa divides Shaan and Mehak. Mehak's image refracted by partition.

SHAAN

Kya kar rahi ho Mehek?

Mehak is freaking out. Hyperventilating.

MEHAK

Wo yahan hai, abhi thi! Maine dekha usse... Mere peeche thi... usne mujhpar haath daala!

She fearfully looks behind the sofa.

SHAAN

Tumhaare peeche main tha Mehek!
That was MY HAND! Tumhari awaaz sun
kar main bhaaga

MEHAK

NO, NO, NO that is bull shit!!
CHECK THE CAMERAS!!!

CUT TO:

59(ABC) INT. THE APARTMENT, SOFA IN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 59(ABC)

(02:00am)

CU of TV - footage rewind and played back.

All we can see is Shaan run out of the bathroom towards the living room when she calls out his name. He was behind her, It was his hand stretching out to grab her shoulder, not Jiah's.

Frontal MS - Shaan stands in front of TV, remote in hand. Mehak sits on sofa in b/g, and is freaking out looking at the screen. No sign of Jiah in all the cameras. Shift focus to Mehak when Shaan turns to look at her.

OTS Mehak - Shaan freezes the frame on his hand touching Mehak's shoulder.

He looks at Mehak, who is stunned.

DAY 3

60 INT. THE APARTMENT, SOFA IN LIVING ROOM - MORNING 60

(09:00am)

CU of Mehak - The curtains are drawn open. The entire room is bathed in bright sunlight. Its a hot sunny morning.

DR. KHANNA

Mehek, GHOSTS ARE NOT REAL. Iss ghar mein koi bhoot nahin hai - tumne jo kuch bhi dekha, sirf tumhaara bhram hai..... Tumhaare andar reality aur imagination ke beech jee tod ladai chal rahi hai. Please remember - agar tumne apne dar ko confront nahin kiya, to wo aise hi badhta jaayega....

Mehak's pov - CU of her nails digging in to her thighs.

DR. KHANNA (CONT'D)
 Tumhe is Phobia ko face karna hoga
 Mehek. Hum sab tumhe help karenge.
 Tum chaho to iss situation se bahar
 nikal sakti ho.

Mehak wide eyed, stares at her.

OTS Mehak - Dr. Nisha Khanna sits before her, with Shaan by the side. Nisha picks up the headgear as she speaks.

DR.MAKHIJA
 Tum iss phobia se chutkara chahti
 ho na?

MEHAK
 Haan.

Mehak's pov - Dr. Khanna moves towards her with headgear.

DR. KHANNA
 To phir mujhe trust karo Mehek.

Headgear covers camera, all goes black.

61 INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY 61
 Mehak's pov - Bright light. We tilt down, to reveal we are in a Mall. People walking around, shopping.

60A INT. THE APARTMENT, SOFA IN LIVING ROOM - MORNING 60A
 OTS 2 Shot of Shaan and Dr. Khanna, with the same visual on her laptop but with other options and parameters that she can control. Mehak seen in b/g. Mehak's heart rate is fast.

DR. NISHA KHANNA
 Pick a shop Mehak. Kahan jaana hai?

We see Mehak turning around in one spot.

61A INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY 61A
 Mehak's pov - a pan of the shopping mall, to get a sense of the environment she is in. That's when in the glass windows of a shop she sees the reflection of a cab.

DR. NISHA KHANNA (O.S.)
Good Mehak, ab aage badho. Chalo
aage.

360 degree pan to the original cab, Mehak steps in to frame
in OTS.

60B INT. THE APARTMENT, SOFA IN LIVING ROOM- DAY

60B

Dr. Nisha Khanna and Shaan stare at the same visual on the
computer screen, but they can't see any car. Just a few
people walking. (10-15 people)

DR. NISHA KHANNA
Aage jao Mehak, you can do this.

Shaan looks at the screen closely.

61B INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

61B

Mehak's OTS - Mehak starts walking, we follow her. Mehak
moves closer towards the car, when Anusha steps out of
driver's side. Smiling at her.

ANUSHA (O.S.)
Sorry I'm late! Chal!

The cab door opens. Mehak is confused.

ANUSHA (CONT'D)
Get in, ghar nahin jaana kya?

Mehak hesitates for a moment and then enters the cab.

Mehak's pov - As Mehak sits in the car and shuts door...

62 INT./EXT. THE CAR, DILAPIDATED COMPLEX - NIGHT

62 *

Mehak's pov - She looks up to see the environment has changed
from mall to dilapidated complex. (Chroma - Stitch in post).
She is all alone in the cab, Anusha has disappeared.

OTS Mehak from back seat - Mehak tries to get out, but the
car door won't open. She moves towards the drivers seat door,
locked. Cold air starts to fill the car, she starts to
shiver, the windows are fogging up.

MEHAK
Get me out of here. Help.

Mehak turns to the car door to get out, when suddenly she hears heavy breathing and a moan from behind her. She senses someone is in the backseat. She slowly starts to turn around.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Help me! Get me out. Please!

Frontal becomes OTS Mehak - She turns to see Jiah sitting in the backseat, face moving rapidly. Mehak screams in terror.

60C INT. THE APARTMENT, SOFA IN LIVING ROOM - DAY 60C

OTS Mehak shaking her head in terror. She is seated on the side sofa. Nisha and Shaan in b/g.

MEHAK

Bas! Bas! Bas! Mujhe bahar nikalo!
Koi sun raha hai? MUJHE NIKALO!

OTS Nisha and Shaan with Mehak in b/g. In the computer screen there is nothing going wrong, no one attacking her. The video is playing as it was recorded. Mehak's heart rate is off the charts.

Dr. Khanna hits the pause button. The video pauses. But, Mehak is screaming. Shaan tries to calm her down.

SHAAN

Easy Mehak, ek minute, main utaar
raha hoon! Don't move...

Mehak's pov - Her hand moves towards knife lying next to sofa.

62A INT./EXT. CAR, DILAPIDATED COMPLEX - NIGHT 62A

Jiah's pov - Jiah stretches her bloody hand towards Mehak.

And she speaks in Shaan's voice.

JIAH/SHAAN

Tumhara vahi hashar hoga jo mera
hua hai...

Mehak lifts up her hand, she holds a kitchen knife. And she slashes away at Jiah. Pan to window where blood falls.

60D INT. THE APARTMENT, SOFA IN LIVING ROOM - DAY 60D

CU of knife slashing at camera.

OTS Mehak, she has pulled her headgear off, Tilt Down to Shaan's hand is bleeding.

Zoom In to CU of Mehak with Shaan's hand being bandaged in f/g. Mehak sits frozen in shock at her actions.

CUT TO:

63 INT. THE APARTMENT, SOFA IN LIVING ROOM - DAY 63
(10:30 am)

CCTV footage from Camera at Entrance (Top angle) - On the TV, she sees Shaan and Dr. Nisha Khanna standing in Common Area waiting for the lift. Zoom in to CCTV footage.

63A INT. THE BUILDING, COMMON AREA - DAY 63A
(10:30 am)

2 Shot with mehak's door in b/g - Dr. Nisha Khanna is accompanying Shaan to hospital; his hand is completely bandaged, it's still bleeding.

DR. NISHA KHANNA

She is in the grip of full blown
Paranoia. Aise mein hosh hi nahin
rehta - wo apne aap ko, ya doosron
ko - iss-se bhi zyada damage kar
sakti hai...

Shaan doesn't respond.

Frontal 2 shot, towards lift - The lift door opens. The two of them step in.

DR. NISHA KHANNA (CONT'D)

Usse clinic mein admit kara do
Shaan, warna kuch bhi ho sakta hai.

Lift shuts before we hear Shaan's reply.

CUT TO:

64 INT. THE APARTMENT, BATHROOM - DAY 64
(11:00 am)

OTS Mehak - She opens the medical cabinet, her face seen in mirror, she picks up her liquid medicine bottle, this time, she doesn't use the eye dropper, just takes a clean swig.

She feels better. Puts back the bottle and shuts cabinet. In the mirror she sees Anusha.

MEHEK AND ANUSHA

Lakdi ki... kathi
Kaathi pe... Ghoda
Ghode ki..... dum pe
Jo maara.... Hathoda
Dauda dauda dauda ghoda dum uthake
dauda

Mehak sits on the tub. We track out of bathroom...

JIAH (O.S.)

You have reached the voice mail of
The Khurannas. Please leave a
message after the beep.

65 INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 2 - NOON 65

From window, Towards painting - Mehak walks up and down corridor like a caged animal, appearing and disappearing at the turn.

MEHAK

Err, hi. Hello, my name is Mehak.
Main actually, er... Jiah ke baare
mein main aapse kuch baat karna
chahti hoon... Please mujhe phone
kariyega. Mujhe pata hai, mujhe
pata hai ki Jiah ke saath kya hua
aur... uski maut ka zimmedar kaun
hai...

65A INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 1 - NOON 65A

Track in from behind partition to MS of Mehak.

MEHAK

Mera number hai 9867821212. Urgent
hai. Please call...

Mehak hangs up. Mehak hears the sound of screaming. It's coming from the guest bedroom. She walks in to the room (Camera doesn't follow).

66 INT. THE APARTMENT, GUEST ROOM - DAY 66

(01:00 pm)

*

Mehak's eye in ECU peeps in to the hole (from other side of hole) *

Mehak's pov - The room is undergoing renovation. Plastic sheets pasted over all the walls and floor of the room. Tool boxes and painting equipment lying around. Malhotra screams in anger and throws his phone to the ground. It breaks. *

OTS Mehak, she peeps through hole, the painting she used to cover hole, lies beside her. Malhotra can be heard screaming and breaks down again. *

MALHOTRA (O.S.) *

Aargh! Hahahahahahah! Aaargh! *

Hahahahahaha! Aaargh! *

Mehak's pov - Malhotra places the **portrait of Jiah** on the floor and kneels next to it, he's holding a large blade cutter with a red and yellow case. *

CU of Mehak's eyes widen with shock (from other side of hole). He is talking to Jiah's photograph. *

MALHOTRA (CONT'D) *

Jiah, meri Jiah, sirf meri Jiah... *

Main tumhaare bina jee nahin sakta! *

Maine kabhi tumhe hurt nahin karna chahta tha magar tum... Tumne mujhe majboor kiya Jiah! *

Mehak's pov - It looks like he is about to slit his wrists. But chickens out at the last moment, breaks down. *

MALHOTRA (CONT'D) *

Mujhe maaf kar do Jiah! Mujhe maaf kar do... Oh God maine kya kiya! I am so sorry. I am so sorry. *

He falls to the floor weeping. And then tries to regain composure, starts laughing (laughter therapy). *

Profile shot of Mehak - Mehak quietly moves away from the wall, covers the crack with her painting. *

(01:30 pm)

Frontal MS of Mehak - She steps out into the corridor (seen behind her), thinking about what she saw.

She takes out her phone and dials Shaan. When something grabs at her phone and sends it flying from her hand.

Frontal - She stares at camera and starts to back away in to corridor. The camera keeps moving in on her as she moves back. She turns and runs.

68A INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 2 - DAY 68A

Camera chases after her, as she runs. When suddenly she is pushed by an invisible force and falls on the cabinet (Cam mimics move).

Mehak's feet in f/g as she backs away - The mechanical bird, moving around on the ground in front of her. Making that clinking sound.

Top Angle, the Camera is still moving in on her - Mehak yells and runs into the bedroom. Camera runs after her but door shuts on Camera.

69 INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM - DAY 69

OTS MS of Mehak - She tries to shut the bedroom door.

Frontal MS of Mehak - The door is kicked open by an invisible force, Mehak is thrown on the bedroom floor (Camera mimics move).

Mehak's pov (block vertical frame) - And from her upside down view, she sees the bathroom door slowly opening - a blade cutter with a red and yellow case lies on the bathroom tiles covered in blood.

Mehak's pov, CU - It's the same blade cutter she saw in Malhotra's house.

CU of Mehak - Her eyes widen with terror.

70 INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE - DAY 70

(02:00 pm)

(02:00 pm)

Top Angle of coffee table in Kitchen. A piece of paper is slipped in to frame - it's a sketch she has made of the blade cutter. *

Mehak and Niki are at the coffee table looking at drawing. *
Objective shots OTS Mehak intercut with OTS Niki - *

MEHAK

Iss-se Jiah ka khoon hua hai.

NIKI

Iss drawing se?

MEHAK

No Niki! Iss blade cutter se! Wo mujhe shayad yehi batane ki koshish kar rahi hai... Jaanti ho yeh blade cutter kiska hai?

Mehak looks in the direction of Malhotra's house.

NIKI

Weird Mannu?

Mehak nods her head in agreement.

MEHAK

Sirf weird nahin hai. He's crossed the line.

NIKI

OMG!!! Jiah ne tumhe yeh sab bataya?

MEHAK

Bataya nahin, dikhaya! Un dono ke beech kuch hua jiski wajah se Manu ne Jiah ko maar dala.

Niki looks at the sketch again.

NIKI

Nah! Wo thoda Majnu mahiwal type ka hai par khoon nahin kar sakta yaar!

MEHAK

I'll prove it to you. Uske paas yeh blade cutter ab bhi hai. Maine dekha hai. Hum Police ko denge... Forensic check hoga aur us par Jiah ke khoon ke traces milenge, I'm very sure.

2 Shot from Hall, towards entrance door - Mehak crosses over to Niki's side of table.

MEHAK

Niki, you have to help me/mera yakeen karo! Mujhe apne aap ko yeh prove karna hai... ki I'm not...

NIKI
Genuinely Cuckoo?

MEHAK
(Nods) Aaj subah maine Shaan ko...
(suddenly realises) Tum jao.....!
You must leave.

Niki becomes serious, she cares about Mehak.

NIKI
It's Ok Mehek. I will help you.
Bolo kya karna hai?/
After all, maine tumhaari cold
coffee pee hai!

Mehak smiles.

71(+A) INT. THE APARTMENT, SOFA IN LIVING ROOM - DAY TO EVENING (+A)
(06:00 pm)

Mehak's pov - CCTV feed of common area. Malhotra making Rangoli.

NIKI
Mannu roz shaam ko paas ke nana
nani park jaata hai. Sunset
Laughter club ka president hai.

MEHAK
How do you know?

NIKI
(Sheepish) Mere papa jaate hain...
Spare chaabi ghar ke bahar planter
mein padi rehti hai. Thodi der mein
wo park jaayega, humlog jaldi se
andar ghus ke blade cutter utha
lenge.

Just then, as if he heard, Malhotra looks up on the CCTV.

In the room, Mehek reacts.

Malhotra stares at her door. He rises, puts diyas on the verandas of his, Mehek's and Niki's apartments.

MEHAK
Jiah ki body kahan chupayi hogi
usne?

NIKI (O.S.)

Ghar ke walls mein? Architect hai,
usse yeh sab zaroor pata hoga, kisi
khopche mein body ko kaise chupaya
jaata hai... No wonder renovation
khud hi karta hai...

Frontal 2 Shot - Mehak and Niki seated in sofa, watching the
CCTV feeds, eating the Mithai.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Tumhara boyfriend nahin aaya aaj?

MEHAK

Shaan mera boyfriend nahin hai.

NIKI

Acha. Usse pata hai?

Mehak is surprised to hear that.

MEHAK

Well... of course.

NIKI

Cool. Tum kehti ho to... Thoda
possessive hai na?

MEHAK

Shaan mera bahut acha dost hai
Niki. Maine aaj ussey..... He
really cares for me, ok?

Niki notices something on TV.

NIKI

Gaya!

Malhotra steps out of his apartment. He is in his robe. He
leaves in the lift.

Mehak's door opens, the girls step out.

72

INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE/Common Area - Evening

72

Mehak and Niki step out to the doorway, but Mehak is unable
to go any further. Niki who hasn't realized quickly goes to
the doormat, lifts it and holds up the key. That's when she
sees Mehak's panicked face.

MEHAK

I am sorry, main bahar nahin....

NIKI
CCTV pe dekho, agar koi problem hua
to phone karna...

MEHAK
Mere paas tumhara number nahin hai!

Niki thinks on her feet, throws her phone at Mehek.

NIKI
Catch!

Mehek catches it, looks at Niki.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Apna phone phenko! Main apne aap ko
phone karti hoon!

Mehak nods, chucks/slides her phone. Niki takes it and winks.

Inside, Mehek shuts the door and her phone rings.

73 INT. THE APARTMENT, SOFA IN LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 73

Niki's POV - video chat. Niki is going to the bedroom.

NIKI
Hey! Check out this guy's
apartment. Can you see?

MEHAK
Yes.

74 INT. MALHOTRA'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM & CORRIDOR - NIGHT 74

(07:00 pm)

Niki moves through the living room.

NIKI
Kaun se room mein?

MEHEK
Bedroom try karo.

75 INT. MALHOTRA'S APARTMENT, STUDY/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 75

(07:00 pm)

She moves into the bedroom. Freezes. She can hear a sound. *

NIKI *
What was that? *

Mehek looks through the peephole. Manu is entering his house. *
Opens the door. *

MEHAK *
Niki, Wo aa gaya! *

NIKI *
Whaat? Roko usse! *

MEHAK *
How?? *

NIKI *
I don't know? Kuch bhi karo, mujhe *
maar daalega wo! *

Too late. Mehek is unable to stop Malhotra. He goes into his *
house. *

Niki's /Phone's POV. Robed feet approach bed. Mirror in front *
of bed. Malhotra picks up his forgotten headphones, attaches *
them to phone. Starts bobbing. Then he sits down and *
scratches his back with a long stick or a paintbrush. *

Mehek reaction. *

Niki turns cam to herself and cracks a joke. *

NIKI (CONT'D) *
Eeeewwww! Kangi se peeth khuja *
raha hai! AAAH! *

Niki under the bed drops the phone. *

Mehek panics. Phone unreachable. Mehek cannot abandon Niki. *
She goes for the door. *

Common Area. Mehek emerges from her door. Process of reaching *
Malhotra's door. Rangoli an inch from being spoiled. She *
gathers herself. Calms down. Calls out. *

MEHAK *
Manu! Manu! *

Manu comes out, smiles. *

MALHOTRA *
Happy Diwali! *

MEHAK
Thanks. Repair?

MALHOTRA
Hahahaha! Huh? Repair? Wall? Great,
main tools le kar aata hoon.

He takes a step towards his door.

MEHAK
Noo!

MALHOTRA
Huh?

MEHAK
Mere paas sabkuch hai. Tools,
sabkuch. Please come in.

MALHOTRA
Ek minute. Main apne leke aata
hoon...

He enters his house. Mehak panics. Malhotra walks back out
with his tool box.

81 INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE - NIGHT 81 *

Malhotra walks in through the door. She grimaces and holds
her breath but doesn't let it show. In the living room, the
TV is off. Mehek keeps trying Niki. *

83 INT. THE APARTMENT, GUEST ROOM - NIGHT 83 *

(07:40 pm) *

Malhotra is pulling out the paint and plaster from around the
crack. But his eyes are focused on something else. *

MALHOTRA
Diwali yahin hai? No plans? *

MEHAK
No. *

MALHOTRA
You look really stressed! Mujhe bhi
pehle bahut stress ho jaata tha.
But Laughter therapy ne meri life
badal dee actually. I can help
you... *

(MORE) *

MALHOTRA (CONT'D)

Milkshake technique se saara stress
jo hai... (Shows Milkshake
technique)

Mehak is sweating profusely, she is on the verge of having a
panic attack.

Malhotra, still showing the technique, gets distracted, looks
off to one side as if mesmerised. She sees what he is looking
at it. It's the cardboard box filled with Jiah's old clothes.
He stops working on the crack and picks up one of Jiah's
sarees. He sighs.

MALHOTRA (CONT'D)

Yeh saadi Jiah ke liye maine
khareedi thi... Hamari first
anniversary pe she wore it and she
looked...

And he smells it. Mehak's heart starts pounding.

Malhotra hands tremble a little. He snuggles into the dress,
inhaling deeply. Mehak backs away from the room quickly and
shuts the door.

84 INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 1 - NIGHT

84

Mehak latches the door from outside. He tries to open it.
It's locked.

MALHOTRA (O.S.)

Hey! Miss? Miss Mehek? Open the
door!

Mehak doesn't respond. She is having a full blown panic
attack, she jumping in and out of focus. Breathing heavily.

MALHOTRA (CONT'D)

Kholiye please! Let me out! Hello
miss, open the door.

He bangs hard on the door.

Mehak pulls out the phone from her pocket and dials Niki
again.

MEHAK

Mujhe sab pata hai! Tumne Jiah ka
khoon kiya hai! Main police ko bula
rahi hoon! You will be arrested!
Niki ke saath kya kiya tumne?

She drops the phone, her head is spinning. He keeps banging on the door, the sounds get amplified.

INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 1 - NIGHT

Shaan comes in sees her ranting at the door. Malhotra is still banging or not from inside. Shaan places the bottle of wine on the cabinet and rushes towards Mehek. His hand is bandaged.

Mehek prevents Shaan from opening the door. She is surprisingly strong but Shaan manages to open the door. Manu comes rushing out..

MALHOTRA

What the hell? She locked me inside! Mujhe kamre mein band kar diya! Hahahaha!

MEHAK

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID! Niki phone kyun nahin utha rahi hai? Pehle Jiah aur ab Niki! YOU ARE NOT GOING TO GET AWAY WITH IT!

Malhotra is alarmed. He takes a step back.

MALHOTRA

Huh??? What... What do you mean? Maine kya kiya? Jiah ko jaanti ho tum?

SHAAN

Manu, tum please ghar jao yaar, main baad mein...

MALHOTRA

What is wrong with her? Jiah ka naam kyun le rahi ho baar baar? Kya hua ussey?

SHAAN

No no... she means nothing. Mehek ki tabiyat kharab hai, please, wo tumhe koi aur samajh rahi hai...

MEHAK

(Screams) Jiah ka khoon kyun kiya??

MALHOTRA

What?? Jiah ka kya?

MEHAK

Murder!!

SHAAN

Mehak! For god sake stop!

Malhotra stares at her for second. She stares back at him with uncontrollable anger in her eyes.

SHAAN (CONT'D)

I'm really sorry about this Manu, please tum jao...

Malhotra laughs. Leaves.

MEHEK

Shaan, usse jaane mat do! He has Niki!

SHAAN

What the hell Mehek?

MEHEK

We have to help Niki! Wo Manu ke ghar mein gayi thi!

Three knocks. Silence. Mehek and Shaan look at each other. Mehek runs to the door and opens it.

MEHEK (CONT'D)

(angry with Niki) What the hell happened? Kahan thi tum?

NIKI

Relax, Mom! Manu ke bed ke neeche Spiders ka full fledged ghonsala tha! I panicked and tumhe apne phone ki battery charge karni chahiye! Anyway, maine tumhaara kaam kar diya hai...

Niki removes the blade cutter from her back pocket.

SHAAN

What the f...

NIKI (SALMAN SWAGGER)

Mein ek baar jo commitment di toh blah blah blah...

Malhotra's blade cutter and the drawing of the blade is placed side by side on the coffee table. Shaan's hand enters frame, he's holding another identical blade cutter.

He places next to Malhotra's blade.

SHAAN

Mere paas bhi yeh hai... To main
bhi murderer hoon?

Mehak is stumped. She looking at both the blade cutters, comparing them.

NIKI

Ho bhi sakte ho....

SHAAN

Mehek? Maine tumhe samjhaya tha na?
Please ask her to leave.

NIKI

Hello, tum akele Mehek ke dost
nahin ho, ok? Stop getting so J.

SHAAN

(Ignoring Niki, talking to
Mehak)

Please Mehek, is ladki ko aur
musibat mein daalna chahti ho?
Tumhe panic attack hua to yeh kya
karegi?

NIKI

Listen, tumhe meri chinta karne ki
zaroorat nahin, I can take care of
myself, I'm a black belt..... Mehek
mujhe kabhi harm nahin kar sakti.

Mehak looks at Shaan with pleading eyes. Shaan realizes that it's impossible to convince Mehak otherwise.

SHAAN

Mehek, for all you know, Manu iss
waqt police ko phone kar raha hai.
Harassment ke liye andar kar sakta
hai hum sab ko! Yeh ladki uske ghar
mein ghus gayi thi for God's sake!

Mehak thinks for a second, it seems like she is understanding him.

MEHAK

Wo kabhi police ko phone nahin
karega! He's guilty!

SHAAN

Oh come on Mehak! This is madness!

MEHAK

Shaan, Shaan! Meri madad karo!

Niki removes a big fat book from her backpack and places it on the coffee table.

It reads - 'THE DEAD ARE ALIVE!' Memoirs of a Psychic.

NIKI

Jiah khud hamari madad kar sakti hai!

88

INT. THE APARTMENT, BATHROOM - NIGHT

88

(09:30 pm)

A seance circle is being drawn on the bathroom tiles, with red color paint, from Mehak's old stash. Mehak draws a triangle inside the circle as it shows in Niki's book.

Niki is lighting candles and placing it around the circle.

Shaan sits on the toilet seat watching all of this.

SHAAN

Bathroom mein?

NIKI

Wo yahin mari thi. Right Mehek?

MEHEK

I think so.

SHAAN

Great.

He pours himself a drink. Mehak looks up at him. He smiles at her.

SHAAN (CONT'D)

What? Doctors orders.

MEHAK

Tumhe ghar jaana hai to tum jao, Shaan.

SHAAN

Aur tum dono ko yahan akela chod doon? Iss halat mein? And you're welcome.

Mehak sighs. Shaan downs his drink.

NIKI

Waise bhi hume third wheel chahiye.
Teen log minimum chahiye séance ke
liye...

Shaan laughs as he pours himself another drink.

Mehak adds the finishing touches to the seance circle - a YES and a NO. Niki places Malhotra's blade cutter in the centre of the circle.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Super! Ab, last mein...

She reads a passage out from her book.

NIKI (CONT'D)

To make a stronger connection with
the deceased; the conductor must
wear something of the deceased.
Tumhaare paas...

MEHAK

Jiah ke kapde hain.

88A INT. THE APARTMENT, BATHROOM - NIGHT

88A *

Mehak puts on the Air hostess costume, ties her hair in a bun just the way Jiah did. She puts on the ruby ring.

Mehak opens the bathroom door.

89 INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

89

Niki and Shaan are taken aback by the transformation. Mehak looks like Jiah. In almost all aspects. Niki compares Mehak to a facebook picture of Jiah in her air hostess uniform.

NIKI

Mehak?

SHAAN

Yes, Niki, yeh Mehek hi hai! This
is ridiculous.

Mehak smiles.

90

INT. THE APARTMENT, BATHROOM - NIGHT

90

(10:00 pm)

The three of them are seated in the center around the circle. The bathroom is illuminated by candles. They hold each others hands. Shaan sighs and joins in, forming a circle. There is a mongolian chant playing on Niki's phone.

Niki and Mehak try to call Jiah's spirit.

NIKI & MEHAK

Jiah. We come in peace, we mean no harm. We are here to listen. Help you move on. If you are in this house, please talk to us.

Silence. Nothing happens. They try once more.

NIKI & MEHAK (CONT'D)

We come in peace Jiah. Are you here? Please give us a sign. We are here to help you and listen to you. Please talk to us.

SHAAN

(snide)

Shayad Jiah baat karne ke mood mein nahin hai.

NIKI

Wo isliye kyun ki tumhaari energy ekdum negative hai.

SHAAN

Right. Saara kasoor mera hai.

MEHAK

Hush!

Niki and Shaan back off.

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Once again (To Shaan) thoda feeling ke saath

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Jiah. Please mujhse baat karo. Batao tumhaare saath is ghar mein kya hua... Hum log tumhe help karne aaye hain... Jiah....

Suddenly there is a sound coming from outside, it sounds like footsteps. Everybody listens.

MEHAK (CONT'D)
Tumhe bhi sunai de raha hai?

Niki nods - a yes.

The footsteps get louder, it approaches the door. Shaan for the first time is tense. They can see a shadow outside the door. Someone is standing in the bedroom. The door knob turns, the bathroom door opens slowly with a creak. Niki grabs Mehak's hand and at the doorway stands Jiah. Shaan gulps in terror.

Jiah looks ghostly with all the light of the bedroom shooting in from behind her. She steps into the bathroom and we realize she is not come in spectral form but in flesh and blood.

Mehak is shocked. Jiah is alive!

She is holding a pair of keys in her hand.

MEHAK (CONT'D)
Jiah!?!

JIAH
What the hell?!

Mehak is stunned, Niki approaches Jiah in utter disbelief.

NIKI
Jiah! Tumhara khoon kisne kiya,
batao hume?

Jiah looks at her quizzical and at the seance circle.

MEHAK
Tum to zinda ho!

JIAH
Of course main zinda hoon! Aur tum
sab pagal ho! Kya ho raha hai yeh?

NIKI
Tumhara to khoon hua tha na?

JIAH
What!

MEHAK
Maine dekha... ki Malhotra... Manu
ne... tumhara... yahin pe dekha?!
(mid sentence, she starts
muttering to herself)
To kya dekha maine...?

(MORE)

MEHAK (CONT'D)

Tum zinda kaise ho sakti ho? What's happening to me...

Jiah has no idea what this woman is talking about.

JIAH

Hey! Tum wahi ho na, jisne mere ghar phone kiya tha? Are you mad? Jaanti ho tumhara message sun kar mere parents kitne pareshaan hue? Huh? Koi aise phone karta hai kya? "Main jaanti hoon aapki beti ko kisne maara?" Manu ne phne karwaya tumse? Huh? I'm going to kill Manu!

Niki sighs in frustration.

NIKI

No, no! But Manu killed you!

JIAH

What, you crazy little rat!

Shaan steps up and clears the air. Mehak walks away in to the bed room, in a state of shock and confusion.

SHAAN

One sec, please, mera naam Shaan hai, I can explain...

JIAH

You better, Shaan!

SHAAN

Actually, I can't! Drink?

Jiah doesn't know what to say.

NIKI

Sach, hum soch rahe the ki Manu ne tumhe maar daala! Maine tum dono ke jhagde sune hain!

Shaan gives Niki a glare. Jiah looks the three up and down. She snatches the ring off Mehak's hand.

*

JIAH

Mera uniform kyun pehen rakha hain tumne, you crazy woman!

MEHAK

I'm sorry. I...

NIKI

Use laga ki Manu ne tumhe

JIAH

Yeah, yeah, Manu ne mujhe maar
daala! Freaks! Meri ring wapas
karo!

She pulls the ring out of Mehek's hand and storms out of the
room.

92

INT. THE BUILDING, ENTRANCE/COMMON AREA - NIGHT

92

(10:30 pm)

Jiah followed by our gang. Jiah rings Manu's bell. Manu comes
out.

MANU

Jiah! Jiah! You came back!

JIAH

Get off me, you sicko! Kitni baar
bolun ki it's over! Yeh lo tumhaari
dadima ki angoothi, and please,
shove it up!

Jiah throws back the ring that used to be Malhotra's family
heirloom. It bounces off Malhotra and falls to the floor.

*
*

Manu goes and picks it up and comes back.

MANU

Jiah, yeh angoothi ab tumhari hai!

JIAH

Nahin chahiye mujhe tumhaari sadi
hui anguthi! Tumne inn logon ko kya
bataya hamare baare mein?

MANU

Jiah, breathe. See, breathe. Calm
down... Yeh log sab pagal hain, tum
inki kuch mat suno. I am so happy
to see you!

JIAH

Manu, stay the hell away from me!

MANU

Jiah, main bilkul bagdal gaya hoon!
Bilkul gussa nahin karta!

(MORE)

MANU (CONT'D)

Maine Laughter therapy mein
advanced course kar liya hai, I'm
cool now... Dekho, hahahahahahaha!

JIAH

Manu, you crazy son of a (slaps)

MANU

Hahahahahaha! See? No gussa! Tum jo
kahogi wo manzoor hai... Tumhe
flying continue karna hai no
problem... tumhe bachche nahin
chahiye, no problem, tum doosre
mardon ke saath kaam karti ho, no
problem. Yeh angoothi nahin
chahiye? Nahin chahiye, puts it in
his pocket. Bas tum mujhe wapas le
lo, main ekdum

Jiah slaps him again. He keeps coming, she's backing into
Mehek's house. Our gang is backing in to accommodate her.

MANU (CONT'D)

Hahahaha! I love you Jiah! Mujhe
wapas le lo!

Jiah hits him again but this time he grabs her hands. Holds
her tight. She keeps hitting his chest. Then gives in. Limp
out in his arms.

JIAH

I really hate you, Manu!

MANU

I know baby, it's ok!

JIAH

Hase to thappad maroongi!

MANU

No hasi! See? No more laughter
therapy!

Jiah and Malhotra kiss passionately, he carries her into his
house. The door shuts. *

*
*

93

INT. THE APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

93

(11:00 pm)

Shaan and Niki walk back in. Mehak is seated despondent on
the floor.

NIKI
Main yeh raat kabhi nahin
bhoolungi....

SHAAN
Ghar jao Niki! Bahut ho gaya
tamasha.

MEHAK
Shaan theek keh raha hai. Ghar
jao... Thanks for everything Niki.

Niki take's Mehak's hand in hers.

NIKI
Call me agar kuch bhi kaam ho toh.
Okay?

Mehak nods faintly.

Niki walks out, looking back at Mehak one last time. Shaan
shuts the door on her face.

MEHAK
Main poori pagal ho gayi hoon na,
Shaan?

He turns to her.

SHAAN
Well, poori nahin...

Mehak looks up at him, he's got a drunk grin on his face. She
is almost in tears. His smile vanishes. He approaches her.

SHAAN (CONT'D)
Baby, that was a joke. I'm sorry.

Shaan sits down next to Mehak.

MEHAK
Wo Doctor aur Anusha mujhe pagal
khaane mein daal denge.

Shaan and Mehek look at one another. She continues speaking.

MEHEK
Tum aisa nahin hone doge na Shaan?

SHAAN
Nahin hone doonga.

She rests her head on his shoulder. Shaan puts his hand
around her shoulder.

Fire crackers and rockets bursting in the background. Diwali celebrations are on in full swing. A tear rolls down her cheek. Shaan lowers his head and kisses her eye. Then he kisses the other eye. He kisses her forehead.

SHAAN (CONT'D)

Maine life mein tumse zyada strong
ladki nahin dekhi Mehek... You'll
be ok, I promise...

She moves into his embrace, allows him to kiss her. He removes the scarf from around her neck, still kissing her. She is giving in to the moment, her eyes closed, willing to abandon all fears to the security of his arms. The song from outside is loud now, really loud. It is the same song that played in the taxi that night..... Shaan is completely unaware of the song but Mehek's fragile mental balance implodes. She starts speaking ever so softly.

MEHEK

I hate your hands. Choote ho to
ghinn aati hai. Gande hain tumhaare
haath. Gande aur kharab. Dimaag
tumhaara kharaab hai mera nahin.
Ilaaj ki tumhe zaroorat hai. Tum
mujhpar aankhen daalte ho, haath
daalte ho, meri marzee ke bina?
Kisne haq diya tumhe? Sirf isliye
ki tum mard ho aur main aurat hoon?
Tumse ghinn aati hai. Saans mein
badbu hai haramkhor main tumhe kaat
daloongi rengte hue keede ho tum
tumhe pair ke neeche kuchal doongi
tumhaari wajah se meri behen itni
musibat mein hai. Tumhaari wajah se
mera Joey char ghante ghar ke bahar
wait karta raha... rota raha...
main roti hoon roz din raat roti
hoon galat main nahin tum ho beemar
tum ho kharab tum ho gande tum ho
bure tum ho...

As she says all this, of course Shaan has moved away and now she gets up too, and confronts him, causing him to step back as she gains the higher ground but she's saying this:

MEHEK (CONT'D)

tumse dar lagta hai, tumse dar
lagta hai, tumse dar lagta hai,
kyun kiya, kyun kiya, kyun kiya,
kyun kiya????

Shaan shakes her.

SHAAN

Mehek, stop! Please!

Mehek breaks away from his grip, falling on the cabinet, causing the music box to fall (Premonition). She gets enraged.

MEHEK

Phir se mujhe haath lagaya to...
Main abhi Police ko phone karti
hoon! Tumhe jail bhej denge!
Disgusting man!

He tries to hold her back. Mehak pushes him away. His balance is poor as he's drunk.

SHAAN

I'm sorry, Mehek! Please suno.
Please don't do anything silly. I'm
sorry.

MEHAK

Tumhe maine dost mana! Tum mein aur
usmein koi farq nahin koi farq
nahin!

SHAAN

How dare you say that Mehek? Maine
tumhaare liye kya nahin kiya? Kitne
saalon se tumhaara wait kar raha
hoon main jaanti ho? Listen to me
you crazy bitch...

He prevents her from calling the cops by slapping the phone
It flies out of her hands and lands on the floor
(Premonition) Stunned, she runs towards the bedroom...

95. INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 2 - NIGHT

95

He grabs her (Premonition) and she pushes with all her might,
falling backwards towards the cabinet. She throws the fallen
music box at him.

Her eyes widen with shock.

A quick flash and she remembers: When she was thrown against
the cabinet by an invisible force and the bird fell in the
exact same manner.

Back to the present:

SHAAN

Oh god! Mehak I'm sorry.

He tries to pick her up, she gets up and runs into the room.
He tries to catch her.

SHAAN (CONT'D)

Please stop.

96 INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT

96

Mehak goes in to the bedroom, but before she can shut the door, Shaan has barged in after her - pushes the door in.

She flies back and falls on the floor, hurting her head.
Again in the same manner as the afternoon scare played out.

Cut to a quick flash of an earlier scare where that exact same action happened.

In the present, In Mehak's upside down vision, she can see the bathroom. She sees the blade cutter still lying in the seance circle, which from this angle looks like blood.

Flashback - to the same inverted POV shot in which Mehak saw the blade cutter earlier in the day.

SHAAN

Mehak please get up, tum theeek to
ho?

Mehak half crawls, half stumbles towards the bathroom.

97 INT. THE APARTMENT, BATHROOM - NIGHT

97

Mehak picks up the cutter and turns to confront Shaan. Who is standing right behind her. She swings the blade cutter in his direction, Shaan moves back. She keeps swinging it like a crazy person, till she cuts him on the shoulder in the process - a superficial graze.

He backs away, in pain.

From her vision, its all hazy and skewed. She is having a full blown panic attack.

MEHAK

STAY AWAY FROM ME!

Just as she tries to attack him again, Shaan lunges and grabs her hand, they slip and fall on the bathroom floor. Mehak's face hits the bathtub.

The blade cutter goes through her finger, we hear the sound of it getting cut. The chopped finger falls next to the open drain.

Mehak yells in pain, Shaan freezes at the sight. He is horrified at what has happened.

Mehak is losing a lot of blood, blood all over the tiles; the cutter lies in the pool of blood. Shaan panics looking at the bloody sight, Mehak is losing consciousness.

SHAAN

Oh god! Oh god! Mehak... Mehek!
Please! Oh God!

Shaan is not thinking straight. He looks at the cut finger.

Mehak is moaning in pain, she tries to move but she is too weak.

Shaan pulls out the toilet roll and nervously bandages her cut finger with toilet paper. *

SHAAN (CONT'D)

(to an unconscious Mehak)
Don't worry, Mehek... maine tumhari
tumhara... icebox mein hai... Abhi
ambulance ko bulata hoon... Sab
theek ho jaayega...

He picks up the finger and runs out of the bathroom, and shuts the door.

98 INT. THE APARTMENT, KITCHEN - NIGHT

98

Shaan places the finger in the ice tray.

Flashback - Mehak sees the finger in the freezer.

Shaan is almost in tears, and his hands are shivering. Just then he hears a knock, he freezes, listens, three quick knocks follow.

Shaan shuts the freezer door.

99 INT. THE BUILDING, COMMON AREA - NIGHT

99

Niki stands at the door, knocking. Shaan opens the door slightly and pops his head out. He acts as if he was asleep. Niki is surprised to see him there.

NIKI
Hi. Mujhe Mehek se...

SHAAN
Niki, it's the middle of the night.

NIKI
Sorry! But mujhe Mehek ka missed call aaya.

SHAAN
Wo so rahi hai.

Niki shows him the missed call.

NIKI
I thought Mehek ko phir se daura pada hai you know...?

SHAAN
She's fine. Main hoon yahan, but thanks. Good night.

Niki notices a couple of blood spots on Shaan's shirt, where Mehak grazed him with the knife. She blocks the shutting door with her foot.

NIKI
Yeh tumhaare shirt pe khoon hai kya?

SHAAN
Nahin, wine stain hai.

101(+A) INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT 101(+A)

Through the CCTV camera we see Mehak crawling through the bedroom, It was never Jiah crawling out of the bathroom. It was Mehak dressed as her.

Cut to the earlier CCTV feed. Exact same movement.

102(+A) INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 2 - NIGHT 102(+A)

We move with at floor level as she crawls slowly through the corridor, passing the mechanical bird on the floor.

103 INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 1 - NIGHT 103

She can hear Niki's voice in the distance, Mehak tries to call out to her.

MEHAK

Niki!

But her voice is too frail. She starts crawling towards the living room.

104 INT. THE APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

104

We see this play out through the CCTV feeds on the LCD screen, its exactly how the scare played out for Mehak a few night ago. When she saw Jiah crawling through the house, towards her, dressed in the uniform. But in actuality it was Mehak dressed in Jiah's uniform.

Mehak reaches the drawing room, she sees Shaan blocking the door way, he has almost succeeded in driving Niki away.

SHAAN

Mehek bilkul stable nahin hai Niki,
usse aaram ki sakht zaroorat hai,
usse disturb mat karo please...

She climbs up on the sofa to get Niki's attention.

We cut back to the moment where the ghost was about to grab Mehak's shoulder from behind. Back in the present we see she actually trying to get the attention of Niki who is standing at the entrance, and Shaan is blocking most of her view.

Niki is about to leave when she looks over Shaan's shoulder to see the CCTV feed on the television screen. She looks closer and sees Mehak's bloody hand reaching out to her from beside the sofa, she's trying to hold it for support.

NIKI

Mehak!

Shaan can't stop her, slithers past under his hands. He follows after her, shutting the door behind him.

Mehak is still groggy and unsteady. The blood loss has made her woozy. Niki is hugging her and trying to pat her cheeks to keep her conscious. She leaps up as Shaan comes close.

NIKI (CONT'D)

Yeh kya hai! Kya kiya tumne?!

SHAAN

Niki... maine kuch nahin, Mehek ne
khud

Niki fishes out her cellphone.

NIKI
Main papa ko bulati hoon woh tumhe
theek karenge...

Niki puts the phone to her ear.

NIKI (CONT'D)
Papa... pick up, pick up!

Shaan knows there's no winning her over. He grabs for the phone. Shaan pushes Niki while struggling to get the phone from her hand, she falls and bangs her head on the edge of the coffee table.

Things are moving from bad to worse for Shaan.

SHAAN
Oh fuck, fuck, fuck!

He checks Niki's pulse, it's faint. She can't stand back up.

Mehak picks up the wine bottle with one hand and throws it at Shaan's head, It cracks on Shaan's shoulder. Mehak stands up and tries to get to Niki but Shaan is gathering his senses.

SHAAN (CONT'D)
Mehak...

She looks around, where can she hide.

105 INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 2 - NIGHT 105

She pulls herself up, slowly moves towards the bedroom, using the support of the corridor walls. Knocking a glass decorative along the way. She opens the bedroom door and enters.

SHAAN (O.S.)
Mehak ruko, please kahan ja rahi
ho...?

106 INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT 106

He enters the bedroom, he looks at the blood trail leading into the bathroom.

Mehak is actually hiding under the bed. She sees his feet run by, same as the scare she experienced in the afternoon of day 2.

107 INT. THE APARTMENT, BATHROOM - NIGHT 107

Shaan enters the bathroom and looks up into the loft for her. Thinking she must be hiding here. It's empty.

108 INT. THE APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT 108

Mehak slides out from underneath the bed and runs out of the room before Shaan can get to her.

109 INT. THE APARTMENT, CORRIDOR 2 - NIGHT 109

Mehak latches it from outside at the last moment. Shaan tries desperately to break through. Door knob moves quickly, he kicks the door many times, trying to break it open.

Exact same sounds and action to the earlier scare she experienced when she was running away from the "ghostly" feet.

SHAAN (O.S.)

Mehak, MEHEK! Open the door!
GODDAMNIT! DARWAZA KHOLO!

She moves away from the door. He bangs the door again.

110 INT. THE APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 110

She tries to revive Niki, she is semi-unconscious.

MEHAK (MUFFLED VOICE)

Niki, Niki. Hold on. Main abhi
tumhaare Papa ko bulaati hoon...
Doctor ko bulaati hoon...

Mehak calls Niki's Dad. No reply... She has to go out to get help for Niki. She looks at the front entrance.

111 INT. THE APARTMENT, ENTRANCE - NIGHT 111 *

The front door opens. She steps across the threshold. Shuts the door behind her. The door closest to hers is Malhotra's. She doesn't want to ring his door bell. She tries to explore options. Mehak tries the elevator instead. She presses the button, but the elevator is out of service. *

She rings Niki's doorbell continuously, no response, finally rings Malhotra's doorbell as she is left out of options. *

Malhotra opens his door. He opens it only a bit, and peeps out. He has a black eye and swollen lip - the goon has given him a good beating. *

MALHOTRA *

You?!

He starts to shut the door. *

MEHAK (MUFFLED) *

Please help me! Call for an ambulance quickly. *

MALHOTRA *

What? *

She inhales and exhales, then tries to speak clearly. *

MEHAK *

He is trying to kill... *

MALHOTRA *

He? *

MEHAK *

Shaan... Please, help me. I need to call... *

MALHOTRA *

Shaan your friend? *

He is unsure about what she is saying, but he doesn't trust her. *

MALHOTRA (CONT'D) *

Please don't disturb me again. *

He shuts the door on her face. *

Mehak has no choice, but to run down the steps. She uses the support of the walls to guide her towards the fire exit door. Getting breathless with every step. She pushes the fire exit door open with her shoulder and step out. *

112

INT. THE BUILDING, STAIRCASE - NIGHT

112

This is the furthest she has been from her house in the last few months. Mehak starts to suffocate with fear. As she looks at the daunting task ahead, the steps are constantly moving due to her peaking paranoia.

She forces herself to take one, she manages to land safely on the first step.

Holding on to the railing she keeps stepping down, one small step at a time. But then suddenly she misses a step and almost slips, she holds on to the railing with dear life.

She stops midway, she's made it down one floor but she can't go any further.

Mehak can't go any further. She gives up. Her mind and body are shutting down. Back against the wall. She can't breathe, she is choking.

Mehak keeps going and going till she reaches the ground floor reception area. She is in bad shape, terrified and exhausted. She closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

113

EXT. THE BUILDING, COMPOUND - NIGHT

113

Gul is standing with a man, both are looking at the fireworks. Gul's black cat is in her arms, wearing headphones. Gul is dressed in fine clothes, the man wears an understated pajama kurta with minimal embroidery.

GUL

Hormuz, I'm so happy ki hum log yeh
firecrackers saath mein dekh rahe
hain...

Hormuz. No reaction at all. Watching fireworks. Gul frowns and reaches out to switch on his hearing aid. Hormuz, stone deaf, jumps as the firecrackers suddenly cackle in his ear.

HORMUZ

Su karech gheli!

GUL

Hun kauch ke

But Gul doesn't complete the sentence as she sees in the background, Mehek's figure lurches out of the foyer and into the garden area... and falls.

GUL (CONT'D)

Hormuz! Look! (Points)

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN AREA. NIGHT. *

Mehek is fallen. Her eyes are shut tight. She opens them. In her POV we see the sky, some fireworks... all hazy and surreal. *

CUT TO: *

EXT. GARDEN AREA. NIGHT. *

Hormuz and Gul rush towards the prone figure. *

CUT TO: *

EXT. GARDEN AREA. NIGHT. *

Mehek makes an effort to concentrate... POV - The parsi couple are running towards her... hazy and surreal... Mehek reaches out her damaged and bleeding hand as two other pairs of hands come towards her.... FREEZE. *

The freeze frame slowly turns into Mehak's painting we saw on display in the art gallery. Looks like she is reaching out for the hands.... This is the image of Mehek's victory over her Phobia. *

114 INT. ART GALLERY - DAY

114

The same framed painting is fixed on the white wall of the gallery. We now know that Mehek painted this one many months ago... *

As we pull out we see the painting has a name tag - it's named - 'NAZARA'. *

End title music crescendoes as the characters of **NAZARA** fade to black. *

End credits. *